

The background of the cover is a photograph of a loon's nest. The nest is built in a dense thicket of reeds, with several light blue eggs visible in the center. The reeds are a mix of green and brown, creating a textured and natural setting.

The **Loon**

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Amelia

Harrison B. Tordoff

Amelia, color-banded black/green 0/*G (* = sideways in our jargon), is a female Peregrine Falcon, almost eight years old when this photo was taken by Mike Williams at Lock and Dam 1, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 27 January 2008. Amelia was hatched at the Monticello Plant, Monticello, Minnesota, in 2000. In 2002, she appeared at Ford Parkway Bridge, Minneapolis, paired with male Scotty b/g P/T, and raised three young. They failed to fledge any young in 2003 from the bridge. In 2004, the pair moved to nearby Lock and Dam 1 where they nested in a box on the man-made cliff. She nested there with Scotty through 2006. In 2007, a new male, Survi-

vor b/g 42/N, replaced Scotty as Amelia's mate. She has fledged a total of 17 young through 2007, paired with her two mates.

Amelia's history has been followed in enough detail to make the point that a Peregrine's personal life might range from pure monogamy to mate changes that would rival those of our more famously promiscuous human companions.

These glimpses of Amelia's life are available to anyone interested at our website <http://MidwestPeregrine.org>.

Bell Museum of Natural History and Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, University of Minnesota.



Photo by Mike Williams.



Photos by Mike Williams.

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Peder H. Svingen, Chairman

The most recent meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) was conducted at the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis on 9 December 2007. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Philip Chu, Kim Eckert (alternate), Ann Kessen, Jim Lind (alternate), Bill Marengo, Drew Smith, Steve Stucker, and Peder Svingen (Chair). In accordance with its policy on term limits, the Committee reviewed nominations for membership and elected Jim Lind as a regular member, replacing Philip Chu. Bruce Fall was elected as an alternate member. Anthony Hertzell replaced alternate member Karl Bardon.

Among the items on the agenda was a report from the subcommittee tasked to review Minnesota records of Townsend's Warbler and Hermit Warbler in light of the recently Not Accepted record of Townsend's Warbler in Steele County (record #2006-058, *The Loon* 79:56-57). Hybrids between these two species are well known in the Pacific Northwest (Jewett 1944, Morrison and Hardy 1983, Pearson 1997, Wright *et al.* 1998) and have strayed as far east as Newfoundland (Mactavish 1996). On behalf of the subcommittee, Philip Chu discussed the Rohwer and Wood Index (Rohwer and Wood 1998) and how it was used by the subcommittee for screening Minnesota records. The Index was designed for use with specimens of adult males; three of Minnesota's five Accepted records of Townsend's Warbler refer to females or first-year males. Based on the subcommittee's findings and discussion at the December meeting, the Committee voted to not reevaluate four Townsend's Warbler records, and to pro-



Record 2007-070, Sabine's Gull, 28 September 2007, Cottonwood Lake, Lyon County. Photo by Kim R. Eckert.

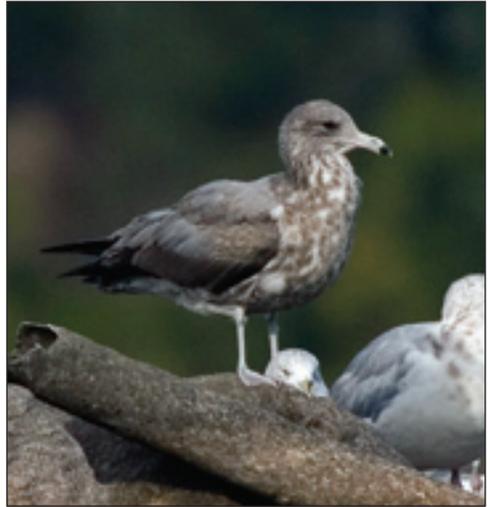
ceed with reevaluation of one Townsend's Warbler record and one Hermit Warbler record. Ann Kessen volunteered to examine Minnesota's specimen of Hermit Warbler.

Also discussed were three potential first state records, seven recirculated records (six for questions on identification and one on origin), and an old record of Iceland Gull from 1987, when this species was Casual in Minnesota. In accordance with its procedures for the evaluation of "old" records, a vote was taken on whether or not to bring the Iceland Gull record forward for review; the Committee voted 7-0 to evaluate the documentation. Results of votes on recirculated and potential first state records, and other records voted on by mail, are listed below.

The following records were voted on



Record 2007-057, Black-headed Gull, 2 September 2007, Spirit Lake, Jackson County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.



Record 2007-061, California Gull, 15 September 2007, Walker, Cass County. Photo by Andrew L. Birch.

October – December 2007 and were Accepted (also see Not Accepted records #2006-103, 2007-014, 2007-046, 2007-051, and 2007-062, which involved qualified Accepted votes).

- Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*), 16 June 2007, Canby, Yellow Medicine County (record #2007-044, vote 5–2).

- Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), 6–7 October 2007, Duluth harbor, St. Louis County (record #2007-078, vote 7–0).

- Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), 2 September 2007, along north shore of Spirit Lake, Jackson County (record #2007-056, vote 10–0).

Excellent photographs and thorough written documentation ruled out other frigatebird species. First state record, following three records of *Fregata* sp.

- Ibis sp. (*Plegadis* sp.), 27 May 2007, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Sherburne County (recirculated record #2007-046, see comments under Not Accepted records).

- Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), 6 May 2007, Ironton, Crow Wing County (recirculated record #2007-027, identification Accepted 6–1, origin Accepted 7–3).

All ten members discuss and vote on questions of origin. The location and date of this sighting were atypical for this species, which can only be reasonably expected in western Minnesota; although no transmitters or bands were visible as this bird flew overhead, and satellite tracking data supplied by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service showed no captive-bred cranes in this area, transmitters occasionally malfunction or are lost. Therefore, this may have been a bird wandering from the experimental flock at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Wisconsin. In this case, the majority voted to accept the record as A_o, i.e., the chances of natural origin and captive origin were considered to be about the same.

- Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*), 29–30 September 2007, Sleepy Eye, Brown County (record #2007-072, vote 7–0).

Sixth documented record for the state. Photographed.

- Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), 28 July 2007, Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2007-048, vote 7–0).

See note in ***The Loon*** 80:44–45.

- Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)



Record 2007-055, Long-tailed Jaeger, 30 August 2007, near southwest boundary of Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County. Photo by Kim R. Eckert.

dus), 10 August – 12 October 2007, along north shore of Spirit Lake, Jackson County (record #2007-057, vote 7–0).

- California Gull (*Larus californicus*), 15–16 September 2007, Walker, Cass County (record #2007-061, vote 7–0).

Second-cycle bird. Photographed.

- Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*), 20–21 December 1987, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County (record #2007-089, vote 6–1).

Contemporaneous field notes were recently discovered and submitted for review. This species was Casual in 1987 and the record had not been evaluated in the past due to lack of documentation. Acceptance of this record 20 years later underscores the value of notes taken during an observation.

- Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), 3 September 2007, Headquarters Pool, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County (record #2007-059, vote 7–0).

- Sabine's Gull, 16 September 2007, Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Lac Qui

Parle County (record #2007-071, vote 7–0).

- Sabine's Gull, 21–22 September 2007, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2007-075, vote 7–0 for each of three juveniles).

- Sabine's Gull, 22 September 2007, Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2007-077, vote 7–0 for each of two juveniles).

- Sabine's Gull, 26 September 2007, Gull Island, Leech Lake, Cass County (record #2007-069, vote 7–0).

Found dead and photographed.

- Sabine's Gull, 28 September 2007, Superior Entry, St. Louis County (record #2007-073, vote 7–0).

- Sabine's Gull, 28 September – 2 October 2007, Cottonwood Lake, Lyon County (record #2007-070, vote 7–0).

First county record. Photographed.

- Sabine's Gull, 5–6 October 2007, Canal Park and Park Point Recreation Area, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2007-076, vote 7–0).

- Sabine's Gull, 6 October 2007, Lan-



Record 2007-072, Western Sandpiper, 30 September 2007, Sleepy Eye, Brown County. Photo by Kim R. Eckert.



Record 2007-086, Inca Dove, 23 November 2007, Two Harbors, Lake County. Photo by James W. Lind.

ners Lake Wildlife Management Area, Omro Township, Yellow Medicine County (record #2007-080, vote 7-0).

- Sabine's Gull, 6 October 2007, Lake Ripley, Meeker County (record #2007-081, vote 6-1).

- Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), 15 June 2007, Garden Island, Lake of the Woods County (record #2007-040, vote 6-1).

This and the following record represent only the second and third times that this species has been found away from Duluth.

- Arctic Tern, 14-15 July 2007, Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2007-047, vote 7-0).

- Arctic Tern, 6 October 2007, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2007-079, vote 7-0).

An experienced observer submitted

written details. Sixth fall record and 23rd overall.

- Elegant Tern (*Thalasseus elegans*), 28 June 2007, Little Pelican Island, Leech Lake, Cass County (record #2007-050, vote 10-0).

Extraordinary inland occurrence of this primarily coastal species (**The Loon** 80:14-15). Multiple images were obtained, many with direct comparison to Caspian and Common terns. First state record.

- Jaeger sp. (*Stercorarius* sp.), 15 July 2007, Leech Lake, Cass County (record #2007-062, vote 7-0).

- Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), 21 August - 2 September 2007, near southwest boundary of Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County (record #2007-055, vote 7-0).

This confiding adult established a predictable pattern of foraging for grasshopper-



Record 2007-063, Burrowing Owl, late July 2007, Moorhead, Clay County. Photo by Dave and Jacki Bellefeuille.



Record 2007-068, Say's Phoebe, 25 September 2007, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Kim R. Eckert.

pers and other insects on a gravel road. Videotaped and photographed by many observers. Ninth state record and the first for Agassiz N.W.R.

- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), 15–21 October 2007, ~10 miles north of Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County (record #2007-082, vote 7–0).

- White-winged Dove, 20–21 November 2007, ~16 miles east of Ely, Lake County (record #2007-087, vote 7–0).

All but two of the state's thirteen records have occurred since 2003. Both of the above were photographed.

- Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*), 30 October – 5 December 2007, Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2007-086, vote 10–0).

First state record. Photographed and seen by many observers. The addition of this and the Elegant Tern brings the state

list to 434 species (frigatebird sp. was already listed).

- Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), 18 June 2006, near Pipestone, Pipestone County (record #2007-083, vote 7–0).

- Burrowing Owl, 1 June – 28 July 2007, near Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, Polk County (record #2007-039, vote 7–0 for each of two adults and two juveniles).

- Burrowing Owl, 2 or 3 July – 2 October 2007, Moorhead, Clay County (record #2007-063, vote 7–0).

- Burrowing Owl, 6–18 August 2007, near Edgerton, Pipestone County (record #2007-051, vote 7–0 for one adult and one juvenile).

- Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*), 21 June – 21 July 2007, near Jackson, Jackson County (recirculated record #2007-054, first vote 5–2, second



Record 2007-054, Western Wood-Pewee, 21 July 2007, near Jackson, Jackson County. Photo by Karl J. Bardon.

vote 7-0).

In addition to written documentation by an experienced observer, sonograms, recordings, and digital video were reviewed at the December 2007 meeting. The identity of the second pewee involved in nesting on private property could not be confirmed. Eighth state record.

- Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), 9 September 2007, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Sherburne County (record #2007-060, vote 6-1).

Distant photographs were submitted with written details. First county and refuge record.

- Say's Phoebe, 25-26 September 2007, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (re-

cord #2007-068, vote 7-0).

Second county record. Photographed.

- White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*), 14-18 June 2007, Pipestone National Monument, Pipestone County (record #2007-042, vote 7-0).

First county record. Photographed.

- Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthos vermivorum*), 23 April 2007, Camden State Park, Lyon County (record #2007-058, vote 7-0).

- Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), 22-23 September 2007, west shore of Lake Winnibigoshish, Cass County (record #2007-065, vote 7-0).

Seventh state record. Photographed.

- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melano-*

corys), 23 June – 1 July 2007, near Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, Polk County (record #2007-045, vote 7–0).

- Lark Bunting, 2 August 2007, near Marietta, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2007-049, vote 6–1).

- Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), third week of May 2007, Breckenridge, Wilkin County (record #2007-043, vote 6–1).

- Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*), 18 July 2007, Moulton Township, Murray County (record #2007-053, vote 7–0).

- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*), 8 December 2006, Huntersville Road, Wadena County, bird #1 (recirculated record #2006-103, first vote 5–2, second vote 6–1).

One of two individuals of the “Interior form” was Accepted. Fourteenth state record.

The following records were voted on October – December 2007 and were Not Accepted. (Please note that a record which is Not Accepted only means that the documentation was not complete or convincing enough to include the sighting in *The Loon*, the journal of the MOU, or in the MOU’s archives of confirmed bird records. Such a vote does not necessarily mean the observer misidentified the bird or did not see it. Summaries of the reasons why a record was Not Accepted are included here. These are in no way intended to be critical of the observer. The only purpose is to highlight the difficulties an observer may encounter while identifying or documenting these and similar species.)

- Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), 27 October 2007, near Worthington, Nobles County (record #2007-084, vote 2–5).

Documentation was limited to two images of a drake wigeon shot by a hunter. The images showed extensive dark flecking on its chestnut face, suggesting hybridization with American Wigeon (*A. americana*).

- Barrow’s Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), 25 November 2007, Lake Ripley, Meeker County (record #2007-088, vote



Record 2007-065, Black-throated Sparrow, 22 September 2007, Lake Winnibigoshish, Cass County. Photo by Ben A. Wieland.

3–4).

The identification of this female relied on bill characteristics and head shape. However, some female Common Goldeneyes show entirely yellow bills (Madge and Burn 1988, Di Labio *et al.* 1997, Eadie *et al.* 2000), and head shape and bill size are subjective impressions that may be influenced by age. Eye color was not described and there was no description of plumage. No field notes or sketches were submitted.

- Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*), 14 May 2007, near mouth of Warroad River, Roseau County (recirculated record #2007-026, first vote 4–3, second vote 4–3).

No field notes were taken and there was no description of the bird’s size. Two field guides were consulted to make the identification, so it was unclear how well the internet posting reflected what was seen in the field.

- White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*), 27 May 2007, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Sherburne County (recirculated record #2007-046, first vote 4–3, second vote 0–7).

The description did not eliminate the possibility of hybridization with Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*). In accordance with procedure adopted in December 2006 (*The Loon* 79:51), this record, which was documented by written details and a distant photograph, was automatically Ac-

cepted as *Plegadis ibis* sp.

- Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), 9 April 2007, Pembina Trail Preserve, Polk County, two subadults (recirculated record #2007-014, first vote 5–2, second vote 4–3).

Two birds flying with five adult Whooping Cranes “held some brown feathering,” but were otherwise not described. Though seen by an experienced observer and probably correctly identified, the majority felt that a more complete description was needed for acceptance.

- Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*), 15 September 2007, Hutchinson, McLeod County (record #2007-064, vote 1–6).

The identification relied primarily on bill size and shape, which is complicated by the fact that Semipalmated Sandpiper’s bill length increases from west to east across Canada (Harrington and Morrison 1979, Veit and Jonsson 1984). Field notes were not taken.

- California Gull (*Larus californicus*), 17 September 2007, Walker, Cass County (record #2007-066, vote 1–6).

Even though this first-cycle bird took flight and returned to land again, its up-per wing pattern in flight was not described. The submitted description did not eliminate a small first-cycle Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*).

- California Gull, 29 September 2007, Superior Entry, St. Louis County (record #2007-074, vote 0–7).

This gull could not be aged from the description and important details, such as wing pattern and leg color, were not described.

- Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*), 7 January 2007, Reads Landing, Wabasha County (record #2007-052, vote 0–7).

Documentation was submitted seven months later for a “uniformly colored, tawny-fawn” first-cycle bird that was “noticeably larger” than nearby Herring Gulls, and “similar in size” to an adjacent Glaucous Gull. Glaucous-winged Gull averages similar in size to a Herring Gull and is typically smaller than a Glaucous Gull (Howell and Dunn 2007).

- Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), 23 September 2007, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2007-067, vote 1–6).

The identification was based primarily on subjective impressions of shape and flight style. Most of the described characters would also fit other jaeger species. Size was reported to be similar to surrounding Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*); this is incorrect for any species of jaeger, including Pomarine Jaeger, which averages just larger than a Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*).

- Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), 15 July 2007, Leech Lake, Cass County (record #2007-062, vote 1–6).

Though unanimously Accepted as jaeger sp., the documentation did not conclusively eliminate Pomarine Jaeger.

- Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), 6–18 August 2007, near Edgerton, Pipestone County (record #2007-051, vote 3–4 for second adult, vote 2–5 for second juvenile).

Submitted photographs depicted only one adult and/or one juvenile in each image. None of the observers submitted written documentation, which could have substantiated the presence of a second adult and a second juvenile.

- Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*), 25 May 2007, South Lake, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, St. Louis County (record #2007-041, vote 0–7).

Though possibly identified correctly, the bird was only seen from below “for a minute or two,” Critical field marks for the identification of this species, including white eye arcs, white patch on wings, and white outer tail feathers, were not described.

- Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*), 14 May 2007, Moulton Township, Murray County (recirculated record #2007-036, first vote 4–3, second vote 3–4).

The brief description neither considered nor eliminated a hybrid Lazuli Bunting X Indigo Bunting.

- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*), 8 December 2006, Huntersville Road, Wadena County, bird #2

(record #2006-103, vote 1-6).

The second of two birds (see Accepted records) was poorly seen and, except for its behavior, was not described.

The efforts of all those observers who document unusual species are greatly appreciated, whether or not the records are Accepted. Though photographs are always welcome, observers are strongly encouraged to submit written documentation based on contemporaneous field notes for all records. The Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided written descriptions for the records listed in this article: Karl Bardon, Dave Bartkey, Patrick Beauzay, Dave Benson, Lars Benson, Jo and Steve Blanich, Conny Brunell, Joshua Christian, Philip Chu, Scott Clark, Steve Dinsmore, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, John Ellis, Ron Erpelding, Dan Floren, Jay Gilliam, Mike Hendrickson, Anthony Hertzell, Robert Janssen, Nelvina De Kam, Paul Johnson, Jeanie Jopru, Jim Kiehne, Jim Lind, Chet Meyers, Steve Mortensen, Warren Nelson, Brian Smith, Peder Svingen, Scott Swanson, Dan and Sandy Thimgan, Mark Weber, Steve Weston, Ben Wieland, and Dale Yerger. These and other observers also documented records of Regular species which were not voted on by the Committee; though not cited here, their efforts are also greatly appreciated.

The Committee welcomes questions or comments from MOU members regarding any record in particular or our procedures in general. More information including our bylaws and current checklist can be found at <<http://moumn.org/mourc/index.html>>. Summary: 54 records voted on — 44 Accepted including 5 with qualified votes, 10 Not Accepted.

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Minnesota's First Elegant Tern

Steve Mortensen

On 28 June 2007, while taking some photographs to document Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) reproduction on Little Pelican Island in Leech Lake, Cass County, I observed and photographed an Elegant Tern (*S. elegans*). This bird was seen at the edge of a group of about two dozen Caspian Terns on the open sand beach, over a period of several hours. The feature of this bird that first caught my attention was its bill that appeared slightly downwardly curved, medium orange at the base and transitioning to light orange at the tip. This coloration was quite apparent compared to the dark orange-red of the Caspian Terns and Common Terns (*S. hirundo*) that could be observed within a few feet of this bird.

This bird was larger than the Common Terns and noticeably smaller than the Caspian Terns. It was also a little smaller than the nearby Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) in general body size. The legs of the bird were black and outer primary wing feathers that were visible were also dark. The bird had a long crest that sometimes fluffed up in the blowing wind. Although I did not notice a faint pink coloration in the breast of the bird while I was in the field, it was fairly apparent once I examined my photographs of the bird. Due to all the other colonial water birds on the island, it was not possible to hear any vocalizations or to observe the bird in flight.

Being unfamiliar with this species of tern, I checked some field guides upon arriving home and was surprised to see that it was an Elegant Tern. I also sent some photos to researchers and managers who work with this species near San Diego, CA, to confirm my identification.

Although this bird was far from its normal breeding range that extends from Coastal Southern California to coastal northern Mexico, there have been sightings as far north as British Columbia as well as the Atlantic Coast and even Europe and Africa. There is a good review of Elegant Tern sightings in Recent Atlantic Records of Elegant Tern at: http://www.geocities.com/steve_extra/elegant_main2.html.

At least some of the Elegant Terns that nest on the West Coast appear to make a northerly movement after the nesting season and are believed to be the source of the individuals that are seen in the northern West Coast. This northerly movement may have been the reason this bird ended up so far north, although I have no explanation for it being so far inland. It is possible that this bird found itself in the Gulf of Mexico and traveled north from that point, ultimately ending up in Minnesota.

An attempt was made to relocate the bird on 2 July when I invited Dr. Stephan Maxson to accompany me to the island, and again on 5 July when Douglas Johnson came along. We were unable to relocate the bird and it was presumed to have left the area.

I would have liked to give more birders the opportunity to see this bird, but the island where it was seen — and the buffer zone around it — are closed to the public for safety reasons as well as to reduce disturbance to the colonial water birds that nest within the island complex.

Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Resources Program, Division of Resources Management, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, 115 – 6th Street NW Suite E, Cass Lake, MN 56633.



Elegant Tern, 28 June 2007, Leech Lake, Cass County. Photo by Steve Mortensen.



Elegant Tern (and Common Tern, upper left), 28 June 2007, Leech Lake, Cass County. Photo by Steve Mortensen.

The Summer Season

1 June through 31 July 2007

Ann E. Kessen and Peder H. Svingen

By far the biggest, and most unexpected, event of the season was the discovery of an **Elegant Tern** among **Caspian** and **Common Terns** on Little Pelican Island in Leech Lake. This coastal species was found by a researcher at a tern nesting site that is closed to the public during nesting season, and was observed on only one day.

Less dramatic highlights of the season included a first county record **Mute Swan** found in Swift County in June, and several new county breeding records for **Trumpeter Swan**. A **Cinnamon Teal** was found in a small flock of **Blue-winged Teal** at the Canby sewage ponds in mid-June. **Wild Turkeys** continue to expand their range in Minnesota, and several new breeding records were reported. The Minnesota County Biological Survey found a **Clark's Grebe** at Pierce Lake for a first record in Martin County. A **Tricolored Heron** spent a few days in June at the Black Rush Lake W.P.A. in Lyon County. The same **Common Moorhen** found in Duluth in late May stayed until 1 June.

A **Piping Plover** spent a couple of June days at Park Point in Duluth and another spent four days about a week later at the Sleepy Eye sewage ponds in Brown County. In late July, Lac Qui Parle County had its third **Ruff** record. A **Little Gull** was found in a flock of **Franklin's Gulls** for a first record for Stearns County. Two **Arctic Terns** were found, one at Lake of the Woods and one at Big Stone N.W.R. These were only the second and third times that this species has been found in the state away from Lake Superior. Glacial Ridge N.W.R. hosted a family of **Burrowing Owls** throughout the summer season. The pair fledged two young, for the first successful nesting in the state since 1991.

A **Western Wood-Pewee** was found

in Jackson County, apparently mated to an **Eastern Wood-Pewee**. They had at least one chick in the nest. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was observed in Cass County in early June. Pipestone National Monument hosted a **White-eyed Vireo** in June. **Gray Jays** were reported from a record high number of counties this year. **Cerulean Warblers** were reported for the first time from Koochiching and Carlton counties. Rice Lake N.W.R. hosted a **Yellow-breasted Chat** for a first Aitkin County record, and elsewhere, a pair of chats attempted to nest at Cliff Fen Park in Dakota County. A male **Lark Bunting** sang for a week at Glacial Ridge N.W.R. **Henslow's Sparrows** were again reported in good numbers, including a new county record for Watonwan County. A **Painted Bunting** was in Murray County in mid-July.

Weather Summary: Most of Minnesota suffered from severe drought throughout the period. Virtually all regions saw warmer temperatures and reduced precipitation during June. Temperatures ranged from as little as 1.6 °F above normal in the far northern and far southeastern parts of the state to as much as 4.0 °F above normal in central Minnesota. Rainfall was up to 2.29 inches below normal for the month in all regions except the far Northwest and far Southeast. This trend continued in July with precipitation falling as much as 3.54 inches below normal in some regions of the state. Temperatures in July ranged from slightly above normal to nearly 3.0 °F above normal.

Undocumented reports: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** 6/25 Aitkin; **Mute Swan** 6/13 Anoka, 6/23 Sherburne; **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 6/2 Dakota, 6/6 Anoka, 7/4 Fillmore; **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 6/28, 7/21 Mille Lacs; **Philadelphia Vireo** 7/5 Pine.

Maps: Maps are included in each account for those species with at least one breeding report. A county filled in with black indicates confirmed breeding while gray indicates probable breeding.

Acknowledgments: Thanks to all those who submitted summer season reports and breeding records. Their data make this report possible. Special thanks to Steve Stucker and the Minnesota DNR for providing MCBS data and to Jerry Niemi and Jim Lind for sharing NRRI data. Thanks also go to Anthony Hertzell,

Jeanie Joppru, and Jim Lind for providing transcripts of weekly birding reports, to Paul Budde for compiling electronic records and early and late dates, and to Dave Cahlander for his work on the on-line seasonal report. Anthony Hertzell and Dave Cahlander produced the maps used in this report.

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KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Species are listed in brackets [**Whooping Crane**] when there is a reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
3. Bracketed text following a species' name indicates the total number of north and south counties.
4. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
5. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
6. Counties with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
7. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
8. Counts listed in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
9. Dagger "+" preceding observer's initials denotes documentation was submitted.
10. Species documented with a photograph are denoted with "ph".
11. Species documented with digital or video tape are denoted with "v.t."

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor, contact the Editor of the Seasonal Report, Paul E. Budde, 4612 Colfax Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55419, or via e-mail at paul.budde@benfieldgroup.com.

Greater White-fronted Goose — [1 North, 3 South] Found in Lac Qui Parle throughout the season. Also reported 6/5 Douglas KRE, Martin MCBS, 7/11 Swift BJU (same as Lac Qui Parle bird?).

Snow Goose — [7 South] All records: June Cottonwood MCBS, 6/1 Lyon PME, 6/1, 6/5 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/5, 6/7 Martin MCBS, 6/14 Olmsted LAV, 6/16 Yellow Medicine (4, including a possible Snow X Ross's hybrid at the Canby W.T.P.) ph. AXH, 6/23 Meeker DMF, 6/30 Lac Qui Parle PCC, 7/4, 7/19 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Canada Goose — [28 North, 45 South] High count 7/3 Stearns (65) STW. First county breeding records for *Stevens* AXH, BJU, RPR and *Pope* BJU, RPR.



Mute Swan — [1 South] One record: 6/22–26 **Swift** KRE, RPR, BJU. Undocumented reports from vague locations in Anoka and Sherburne lacked information about behavior and habitat; Mute Swans seen in urban or park settings during the

summer are probably captive or recently released birds.

Trumpeter Swan — [19 North, 19 South]



Most records ever. High count 7/3 Becker (75) *fide* JMJ. First county breeding records for *Cook fide* JCG, *Cass* BAW, *Mille Lacs* DPG, *Wright* DMF, *Kandiyohi* RPR,

Nicollet BJU, BTS.

Wood Duck — [29 North, 47 South]



Reported statewide. High count: 6/23 Sherburne (330, Sherburne N.W.R.) RBJ.

Gadwall — [10 North, 19 South]



Reported from all regions except East-central and Southeast. First county breeding record for *Meeker* DMF.

American Wigeon — [5 North, 4 South]



All records: 6/1 Lake of the Woods MHK, RBJ, Lac Qui Parle (through 7/12) BJU, LS, m.ob., 6/4 St. Louis LAV, 6/9–24 *Meeker* (first county breeding record) DMF, 6/10

Roseau JMJ, 6/18 Pipestone BJU, 6/22 Martin MCBS, 6/24 Cass BAW, 6/30 Sherburne ASC, 7/8 St. Louis SLF.

American Black Duck — [3 North, 4 South]

Reported 6/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/2 Crow Wing JSB, 6/4 St. Louis LAV, 6/6 Martin MCBS, 6/12 Sherburne ASC, 6/14 Roseau RBJ, Scott PEJ, 6/28 St. Louis PHS.

Mallard — [31 North, 45 South]



High count 6/14 Roseau (550, in rice paddy, mostly males) RBJ. First county breeding record for *Sibley* MRN.

Blue-winged Teal — [24 North, 35 South]



Reported throughout state.

CINNAMON TEAL — [1 South]

Reported 6/16 Yellow Medicine (male with a group of 5 Blue-winged Teal at the Canby W.T.P.) ph. †AXH.

Northern Shoveler — [9 North, 17 South]



Observed in all regions except East-central and Southeast. First breeding record for *Meeker* DMF.

Northern Pintail — [6 North, 10 South]



Seen in St. Louis, Marshall, Polk, Clay, Wilkin, Traverse, Stevens, Big Stone, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Lyon, Pipestone, Jackson, Meeker, and Waseca.

Green-winged Teal — [12 North, 14 South]

Reported from record high number of counties in all regions except Southeast.

Canvasback — [4 North, 6 South]



Reported from Polk, Clay, Wilkin, Douglas, Big Stone, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Stearns, Meeker.

Redhead — [10 North, 21 South]



Reported south and west of a line from Marshall to Dakota, plus St. Louis and Mille Lacs.

Ring-necked Duck — [17 North, 12 South]

Observed in all regions of the state



except Southeast.

Greater Scaup — [1 North] Seen 6/1 St. Louis (3, Duluth harbor off Park Point) PHS.

Lesser Scaup — [6 North, 11 South] All reports from either St. Louis or the western half of the state.

Black Scoter — [1 North] Seen 6/1 Cook RBJ.

Long-tailed Duck — [1 North] Reported 6/1 Cook JEB, 6/2 Cook JWH.

Bufflehead — [3 North, 1 South] All reports: 6/1 Cook RBJ, 6/4 Cass ABi, 6/11 Marshall (two broods, Agassiz N.W.R.) GT, 6/16–25 Jackson (one female with possible injured wing, Valleau W.M.A.) MCBS.



Common Goldeneye — [7 North] Reported 6/1 Lake of the Woods RBW, Cook JEB, RBJ, 6/2 Beltrami DPJ, 6/3 Cass (2) BAW, 6/9 Beltrami DPJ, Cass BAW, JCC, JLO, 6/15 Lake of the Woods RBJ, 6/16 St. Louis (6) SLF, Itasca (8) EEO, 6/17 Hubbard HHD, 6/19 St. Louis (5) NRRI, 7/1 Cook CAB, 7/5 Cass RBW.



Hooded Merganser — [18 North, 32 South] Seen in all regions of the state.



Common Merganser — [7 North] Reported from Beltrami, Cass, Koochiching, St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties, plus a first county nesting record from *Mille Lacs*



SWe.

Red-breasted Merganser — [3 North, 1 South] Reported 6/1 Cook JEB, RBJ, 6/3 St. Louis LAV, 6/9 Cook LS, 6/23 Lake JWL, 6/30 Cook HHD, 7/8 Anoka HHD.



Ruddy Duck — [8 North, 25 South] Observed south and west of a line from Marshall to Hennepin.



Gray Partridge — [1 North, 13 South] Seen in Traverse, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Pipestone, Cottonwood, Jackson, Stearns, Meeker, Rice, Brown, Watonwan, Martin, Dakota, Fillmore.



Ring-necked Pheasant — [17 North, 47 South] Reported from record high number of counties, in all regions except the Northeast.



Ruffed Grouse — [15 North, 3 South] Reported north and east of a line from Polk to Fillmore.



Spruce Grouse — [2 North] All reports: 6/4 Lake (3) NRRI, 6/30 Cook KRE, 7/6 Lake JWL.

Sharp-tailed Grouse — [7 North, 3 South]



Seen in Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Red Lake, Polk, Aitkin, Pine, Big Stone, Swift, Lac Qui Parle. First county breeding record for *Big Stone* (Big Stone N.W.R.) RPR.

Greater Prairie-Chicken — [3 North, 2 South] Reported from Polk, Clay, Wilkin, Lac Qui Parle, Pope. High counts: 6/9 Wilkin (22, 4 birds on lek on east side of Manston Marsh, 3 birds at the south end of Rothsay Prairie, and 15 birds still on lek southwest of Lawndale) BJU, 6/23 Polk (18, Glacial Ridge) JCC, LS.

Wild Turkey — [13 North, 33 South] Reported from record high number of counties in all regions except Northeast. First county breeding records for *Stearns* PBD, *Chisago* AKe, *Nicollet* BTS, *Blue Earth* ChH.



Red-throated Loon — [1 North] North-bound migrant 6/20 St. Louis (Park Point) PHS.

Common Loon — [21 North, 20 South] Reported from all regions except South-central and Southeast.

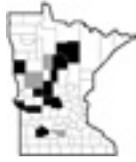


Pied-billed Grebe — [18 North, 36 South] Observed in all regions except Southeast.



Horned Grebe — [1 North, 1 South] Seen 7/4 St. Louis (off 22nd Street access at Park Point) PHS, 7/29–30 Big Stone (adult in basic plumage, near Ortonville) HHD, KRE, BJU.

Red-necked Grebe — [13 North, 21



South] Reported from record high number of counties in all regions except Southeast. First county breeding records for *Stearns* PCC, *Redwood* JEB.

Eared Grebe — [4 North, 9 South] Seen in Marshall, Polk, Clay, Wilkin, Big Stone, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Meeker, Renville, Sibley, Martin, Dakota. High count 7/27 Polk (250, East Grand Forks W.T.P.) DOL.

Western Grebe — [9 North, 16 South] Reported from record high number of counties south and west of a line from Kittson to Rice.



Clark's Grebe — [1 North, 1 South] Seen 6/22–27 Martin (Pierce Lake) MCBS, †SPS, 7/21 Todd (Lake Osakis) JCC, LS.

American White Pelican — [21 North, 36 South] Record number of sightings statewide.



Double-crested Cormorant — [19 North, 44 South] Reported throughout state. High count 7/14 Cass (200, Leech Lake) AXH. First county breeding record for Cass SMe.



American Bittern — [16 North, 9 South] Reported from all regions of the state except South-central and Southeast.

Least Bittern — [5 North, 13 South] Reported from all regions except the Southeast. First county breeding record for *Jackson* AXH. Unusual location 6/29 St. Louis (2 birds at Mud Lake, Gary-New



Duluth) HHD.



Southeast.

Great Blue Heron — [26 North, 49 South] Seen statewide.



Turkey Vulture — [29 North, 46 South] Seen throughout state. High count 7/26 Pope (22, at Lake Linka) TNe. First county breeding record for *Dakota ADS*.



Great Egret — [7 North, 40 South] Observed south and west of a line from Wadena to Winona. High count 6/22 Carver (89, Chaska Lake) DWK.

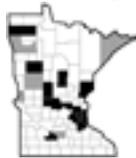


Osprey — [15 North, 12 South] Reported from all regions except Southwest and Southeast. First county breeding records for *Kandiyohi RAE*, *Dakota ADS*.



Snowy Egret — [1 North, 3 South] New county record 6/1 **Clay** ABi. Also 6/20–22 Carver (Chaska Lake, possibly the same bird as reported in late May) RMD, JLO, DWK; 7/7, 7/15 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, BJU; 7/30 Big Stone (Otrej Lake) BJU.

Bald Eagle — [25 North, 28 South] Reported statewide. First county breeding record *Washington TEB*.



TRICOLORED HERON — [1 South] New county record: 6/5–8 **Lyon** (Black Rush Lake W.P.A.) †RBJ, refund and documented †CMB, †PCC.

Northern Harrier — [22 North, 31 South] Observed throughout state.

Cattle Egret — [3 North, 3 South] Six records. Reported 6/3 Grant (8) CMB, 6/9 Clay BJU, 6/10 Hennepin DMF, 7/11 Swift BJU, Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU, and 7/22 Todd DMF.

Sharp-shinned Hawk — [7 North] All records: 6/2 Beltrami DPJ, 6/6 Cass BAW, 6/9 Cass JCC, JLO, 6/14 Lake NRRI, 6/15 Pine JMP, 6/20 St. Louis NRRI, 6/27 St. Louis RPR, 6/29 Aitkin CWG, 7/5 Pine JMP, 7/13 Lake JWJ, 7/25 Cass ABi, Hubbard (no date) MAW. Three undocumented reports south were excluded.

Green Heron — [19 North, 39 South] Observed throughout state.



Cooper's Hawk — [14 North, 30 South] Reported from all regions except Northeast.



Black-crowned Night-Heron — [5 North, 16 South] Reported from all regions of the state except the Northwest and

Northern Goshawk — [1 North] Ob-

served 6/29 Lake (Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center) NRRI.

Red-shouldered Hawk — [5 North, 13 South] Unusual location 6/1 Redwood (one mile east of Yellow Medicine County line along Minnesota River, Swede Forest Township) PME. Also reported from Central and East-central regions, plus Otter Tail and Winona.



Broad-winged Hawk — [19 North, 16 South] Reported statewide.



Swainson's Hawk — [2 North, 17 South] Observed south and west of a line from Polk to Olmsted. First county breeding record for *Olmsted* JWH.



Red-tailed Hawk — [22 North, 47 South] Seen throughout state.



American Kestrel — [27 North, 45 South] Reported statewide.



Merlin — [6 North, 2 South] All reports: 6/1 Lake of the Woods MHK, Cook JEB, JWH, RBJ, 6/9 Cook LS, 6/15 St. Louis TPW, 6/16–22 and 7/13–18 Hennepin BAF, PEB, DWK, 6/25 Big Stone BJU, 7/1



Itasca JJS, 7/4 Lake JWL, 7/8 St. Louis SLF, 7/22 Hubbard DMF.

Peregrine Falcon — [3 North, 12 South] Reported from Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Pope, Lac Qui Parle, Stearns, Sherburne, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha, Olmsted, Blue Earth. First county breeding record for *Blue Earth* MPS.



Yellow Rail — [2 North] All reports: 6/1 Cass BAW, 6/9 Aitkin *fide* JWL, Cass JLO, JCC, 6/10 Aitkin LS.

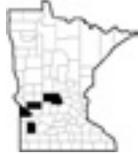
Virginia Rail — [11 North, 18 South] Reported from all regions of the state. First county breeding record for *Sherburne* PLJ.



Sora — [13 North, 19 South] Reported from all regions except Southeast.

Common Moorhen — [1 North, 6 South] Observed 6/1 **St. Louis** (Duluth, same bird as late May) JCG, 6/11 Watonwan (Antrim Twp.) MCBS, 6/17 Nicollet (Duck Lake) BJU, 6/25, 7/30 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 7/4 Meeker (Forest City Twp.) DMF, and throughout the season in Waseca (2, at Moonan Marsh) JPS, m.ob.

American Coot — [11 North, 33 South] Seen statewide.



Sandhill Crane — [25 North, 15 South] Reported from all regions except the Southwest. High count 6/10 Marshall (125, seen along county road 12 in wheat fields) JMJ. First county nesting record for



Steele NFT.

Black-bellied Plover — [2 North, 3 South] Late south 6/13–14 Hennepin (2) DWK, HCT. Late north 6/12 St. Louis PHS.

American Golden-Plover — [1 North, 2 South]. Late south 6/9 Big Stone (2) PHS. Late north 6/9 Wilkin (2) BJU.

Semipalmated Plover — [1 North, 11 South] Northbound migrants: late south 6/4 Sherburne PLJ; late north 6/12 St. Louis (2) PHS. Southbound migrants: early north 7/7 Traverse (2) PCC, PHS; early south 7/7 Swift BJU. High count 7/29 Marshall (135 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ.

Piping Plover — [1 North, 1 South] All reports: 6/1–2 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 6/10–13 **Brown** (Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) ph. †BTS.

Killdeer — [30 North, 49 South] High count 7/28 Lac Qui Parle (924) PHS, DAY. First county breeding record for Meeker TNe.



American Avocet — [1 North, 2 South] Reported throughout the season in Big Stone (max. 14 on 6/15, PHS); additional south report 6/24 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU. Only north report: 6/9 Wilkin BJU.

Spotted Sandpiper — [19 North, 34 South] First juvenile 7/12 Stearns PCC. High count 7/28 Lac Qui Parle (61) PHS, DAY.



Solitary Sandpiper — [7 North, 24 South] Only northbound migrant: 6/2 Lake of the Woods MHK. Southbound migrants: early north 6/29 Itasca SMC; early south 6/30 Lac Qui Parle (3) PCC. High counts (but see fall report) 7/21 Lac Qui Parle (29) PCC, PHS, 7/27 Scott (48 at

Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. First juvenile 7/29 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

Greater Yellowlegs — [18 South, 3 North] Southbound migrants: early north 6/30 Traverse PCC; early south 6/29 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/30 Big Stone PCC. First juvenile 7/22 Marshall PHS. High count (but see fall report) 7/29 Marshall (120 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ.

Willet — [1 North, 3 South] Mid-summer report 6/22 Goodhue SWe. Early south 7/7–8 Lac Qui Parle PCC, BJU, 7/15 Meeker DMF. All north reports: 6/1 Clay ABI, 6/30, 7/7 Traverse (Mud Lake) PCC, PHS.

Lesser Yellowlegs — [8 North, 27 South] Northbound migrants: late south 6/3 Hennepin BAF; late north 6/9 Norman BJU. Southbound migrants: early north 6/23 Traverse (4) PCC; early south 6/21 Stearns PCC, RPR. First juveniles 7/16 St. Louis (1) PHS, 7/21 Lac Qui Parle (3) PCC, PHS. High count (but see fall report) 7/29 Marshall (1,437 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ.

Upland Sandpiper — [9 North, 12 South] No reports from eastern regions. First juvenile 7/6 Big Stone PHS. High counts 7/1 Polk (18 along 0.3 mile stretch of County Road 44, Kertsonville Twp.) PCC, 7/30 Big Stone (loose flock of 19) BJU.



Whimbrel — [2 North] All reports: 6/1, 6/7 St. Louis PHS, 7/18 Cass (Pelican Is., Leech Lake) ph. ABI.

Hudsonian Godwit — [4 South] All reports: 6/23 Big Stone PCC and Wright PRH, 7/24–26 Jackson (2) KJB, 7/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Marbled Godwit — [8 North, 8 South] None found in eastern regions for second consecutive summer. First juveniles 6/30 Big Stone PCC and Clay AXH. High counts 6/3–9 Clay (33 at Felton Prairie)



CMB, BJU, 6/9 Polk (29 at or near Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) BJU.

Ruddy Turnstone — [2 North, 1 South] All reports: northbound migrants 6/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/1 Clay ABi; southbound migrant 7/19 Cass BAW.

Sanderling — [1 North, 3 South] Northbound migrants: late south 6/9 Brown (2) BTS; late north 6/13 St. Louis (3) PHS. Southbound migrants: early north 7/23 St. Louis (4) PHS; early south 7/20 Big Stone PHS, 7/21 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS.

Semipalmated Sandpiper — [12 North, 19 South] Northbound migrants: late south 6/16 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/19 Sherburne ASC; late north 6/15 Lake of the Woods RBJ and St. Louis PHS, 6/17 Clearwater and Hubbard HHD. Southbound migrants: early north 7/16 St. Louis PHS; early south 7/13 Big Stone PHS and Sherburne ASC. First juveniles 7/27 Big Stone (2) PHS, 7/28 Lac Qui Parle (dozens) PHS. High count (but see fall report) 7/28 Lac Qui Parle (649) PHS, DAY.

Least Sandpiper — [6 North, 24 South] Only northbound migrants: 6/1 Lac Qui Parle (3) BJU. Southbound migrants: early north 6/27 St. Louis (2) KRE, RPR, 6/28 St. Louis (4) PHS; early south **6/21** Stearns PCC, RPR, 6/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU. First juveniles 7/21 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, PHS, 7/23 St. Louis (6) PHS. High count (but see fall report) 7/28 Lac Qui Parle (438) PHS, DAY.

White-rumped Sandpiper — [3 North, 7 South] Late south 6/11 Stearns DWK, **6/30, 7/7** Lac Qui Parle (SE section 20, Perry Twp.) †PCC. Late north 6/12–13 St. Louis PHS. Please see fall report for southbound migrants.

Baird's Sandpiper — [3 North, 10 South] Southbound migrants: early north 7/12 St. Louis (2) PHS, 7/17 Cass BAW; early south 7/14 Dakota HHD, Kandiyohi DWK, and Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS. First juvenile 7/27 Lac Qui Parle KJB.

Pectoral Sandpiper — [6 North, 25 South] Northbound migrants: late south 6/10 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, PHS; late north 6/9 Norman (2) BJU. Southbound migrants: early north 6/30 Traverse (1) PCC; early south 6/30 (1), 7/1 (9) Lac Qui Parle PCC, BJU. See fall report for first juveniles and high counts.

Dunlin — [2 North, 4 South] Northbound migrants: late south 6/9 Big Stone PHS and Brown BTS; late north 6/13–14 St. Louis PHS. Only fall migrant: 7/30 Big Stone BJU.

Stilt Sandpiper — [4 North, 10 South] Northbound migrants: late south 6/9–11 Brown (2) BTS; none reported north. Southbound migrants: early north 6/30 Traverse (1) PCC; early south 6/28 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/30 Lac Qui Parle (2) PCC. First juvenile 7/31 Douglas (1) KJB. High count (but see fall report) 7/26 Jackson (239 at South Heron Lake) KJB.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper — [3 North, 7 South] Early north **7/19** St. Louis (near Sky Harbor Airport, Duluth) LBe, **7/20** Douglas (Osakis W.T.P.) PHS; also reported from Marshall (7/29, Agassiz N.W.R.). Early south 7/26 Carver RMD and Murray (3) RBW, 7/27 Lac Qui Parle (first juvenile, Salt Lake) KJB. High counts 7/28 Lac Qui Parle (53, Yellow Bank Twp.) PHS, DAY, 7/31 Dakota (80, Empire Twp.) SWe.

RUFF — [1 South] Third county record 7/28 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) †PHS, DAY (*The Loon* 80:44–45).

Short-billed Dowitcher — [5 North, 10 South] Only northbound report: 6/1 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU. Southbound migrants: early north 7/7 Cass BAW, 7/8 St. Louis (2) PHS; early south **6/21** (ties earliest fall date) Stearns PCC, RPR, 6/30 Lac Qui Parle PCC. High count 7/29 Marshall (28 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ.

Long-billed Dowitcher — No reports.

Wilson's Snipe — [22 North, 11 South]

No reports from Southeast. All counts ≤15 birds.

American Woodcock — [5 North, 4 South] Less than half the number of reports last summer.

Wilson's Phalarope — [7 North, 12 South] Statewide total of 356 individuals (7 reports lacked count data; 430 birds in 20 counties last summer). First juveniles 6/30 Lac Qui Parle (3) PCC. High count 7/31 Lac Qui Parle (184 at Salt Lake) KJB.



Red-necked Phalarope — [1 North, 4 South] Northbound migrants: late south 6/6 Big Stone KRE, RPR, 6/9–11 Brown (2) BTS; none reported north. Southbound migrants: early north 7/29 Marshall (9, including 4 juveniles at Agassiz N.W.R.) MJM, PHS; early south 7/14 Lac Qui Parle (Salt Lake) PCC, PHS.

Franklin's Gull — [9 North, 18 South] Reported from all regions of the state except East-central. Unusual location 6/12 St. Louis (Hearding Island, Duluth) †PHS. High count 7/22 Sibley (300, Gaylord W.T.P.) JCC.

Little Gull — [1 South] New county record: 7/12 **Stearns** (Paynesville W.T.P.) †PCC, RPR. The single individual observed was with about 12 Franklin's Gulls.

Bonaparte's Gull — [5 North, 2 South] Observed 6/20 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 7/17 Beltrami DPJ, 7/21 Cass (36, Walker W.T.P.) RBW, Mille Lacs (12) ASc, 7/27 Polk *vide* MJM, 7/27 Cass (26) BAW, 7/28 Otter Tail DTT, 7/30 Big Stone (4) BJU.

Ring-billed Gull — [20 North, 38 South] Reported statewide. High count 6/12 St. Louis (16,000 including 1,000 dependent chicks unable to fly with 15,000 adults at Interstate Island W.M.A.) PHS.



Herring Gull — [6 North, 3 South] Reported from Lake of the Woods, Cass, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Mille Lacs, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Dakota.



Caspian Tern — [5 North, 7 South] Seen in St. Louis, Cass, Crow Wing, Otter Tail, Mille Lacs, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Hennepin, Goodhue, Waseca, Jackson. First county breeding record for Cass SME.



Black Tern — [24 North, 37 South] Reported from all regions except Northeast.



Common Tern — [4 North] North reports from Lake of the Woods, Cass, Mille Lacs and St. Louis. High count 7/14 Cass (30) AXH.



ARCTIC TERN — [1 North, 1 South] New county records: 6/15 **Lake of the Woods** (Garden Island) †RBJ, GAM, 7/14 **Lac Qui Parle** (Agassiz Twp., Big Stone N.W.R.) ph. †PHS, †PCC; the latter bird was refound 7/15 BJU. These represent only the second and third records of this species away from Duluth, following one in Wilkin, 15 May 2004 (*The Loon* 76:234–235).

Forster's Tern — [8 North, 23 South] Reported from record high number of counties. Observed in all regions except Southeast.



ELEGANT TERN — [1 North] First state

record 6/28 **Cass** (Little Pelican I. in Leech Lake) ph. †SMe (*The Loon* 80:14–15).

Jaeger sp. — [1 North] Reported as a Parasitic and accepted as an unidentified jaeger 7/15 **Cass** (Pelican Island, Leech Lake) †BAW, †DAY. Second county record, following another unidentified jaeger at Cass Lake, 1 August 2001 (*The Loon* 74:95).

Rock Pigeon — [26 North, 48 South] Reported statewide. First county breeding record for *Pine* JMP.



Eurasian Collared-Dove — [2 North, 16 South] New county record: 7/6 **Stevens** (observed about a mile east of Chokio) †PHS. Second county record 6/4 Martin (Trimont) MCBS. Also seen in Traverse, Grant, Big Stone, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Redwood, Cottonwood, Jackson, Stearns, Renville, Carver, Dakota, Brown, Winona.

Mourning Dove — [31 North, 48 South] Reported statewide. High count 6/29 Olmsted (120) LAV.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo — [8 North, 29 South] Reported as far north as Pennington and Cass.



Black-billed Cuckoo — [20 North, 15 South] Reported from all regions except Southeast.

Eastern Screech-Owl — [4 South] All reports: 6/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/2 Hennepin PEB, Rice TFB, 6/11, 6/28 (2) Cottonwood MCBS, Lac Qui Parle (no

date) FAE.



Great Horned Owl — [7 North, 19 South] Reported from all regions of the state.



BURROWING OWL — [2 North] Observed 6/1–7/28 *Polk* (Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) m.ob. Initially, two adults were found by BJE and confirmed by †CMM; later, two adults and two juveniles were reported.



Also documented by †DAB, †PCC, †JPE, ph. BDF, ph. †JMJ. First known successful breeding in the state since 1991. One adult clung to the outskirts of Moorhead beginning 7/2 or 7/3 Clay ph. DJBe, ph. KVH.

Barred Owl — [8 North, 17 South] Reported from all regions of the state.



Great Gray Owl — [2 North] All reports: 6/4 Beltrami MHK, 6/14 Lake SGW.

Long-eared Owl — [1 North, 2 South] All reports: 6/10 Pine (found dead) MCA, 7/10, 7/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Short-eared Owl — [1 South] Seen 6/15, 7/16 (2), 7/18 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Boreal Owl — No reports.

Northern Saw-whet Owl — [1 North, 1 South] All reports: 6/15 Pine JMP, 6/24 Anoka CGr.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 11 July 2007, Dakota County. Photo by James P. Mattsson.



Black-backed Woodpecker, 23 June 2007, Norris Camp, Lake of the Woods County. Photo by Gretchen Mehmel.

Common Nighthawk — [12 North, 29 South] Reported from all regions except Southeast. High count 7/16 St. Louis (16) SLF.



Whip-poor-will — [4 North, 9 South] Reported from Hubbard, Cass, Lake, Cook, Sherburne, Anoka, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Sibley, Dakota, Brown, Goodhue.



Chimney Swift — [26 North, 45 South] Reported statewide. First county breeding record for Meeker DMF.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird — [22 North, 31 South] Observed throughout the state. High count 7/14 Fillmore (16) NBO.



Belted Kingfisher — [26 North, 42 South] Seen in all regions of the state.



Red-headed Woodpecker — [14 North, 28 South] Reported from all regions. First county breeding record for Otter Tail DTT.



Red-bellied Woodpecker — [16 North, 43 South] Observed statewide. First county breeding record for Itasca fide JMJ.



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — [22 North, 29 South] Reported throughout the state.



Downy Woodpecker — [26 North, 44 South] Seen statewide.



Hairy Woodpecker — [24 North, 36 South] Reported from all regions of the state. First county breeding record for Goodhue SWe.



Black-backed Woodpecker — [9 North] Seen in Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Clearwater, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis,



Lake, Cook.

Northern Flicker — [31 North, 42 South] Observed throughout the state. Breeding confirmed only in St. Louis.



Pileated Woodpecker — [23 North, 28 South] Reported from all regions of the state. First county breeding record for *Swift* ph. KRE, RPR.



Olive-sided Flycatcher — [12 North, 6 South] Reported from North-central, Northeast, Central and East-central regions, as well as Lac Qui Parle and Rice. Late south migrant 6/16 Dakota DKO.



Eastern Wood-Pewee — [30 North, 46 South] Reported statewide.



WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE — [1 South] Found 6/21–7/21 **Jackson** (Des Moines River) MCBS. Photos and video, including recording of call, by KJB, EMu. Nest-building observed 6/21 with adult feeding at least one chick in the nest 7/21; thought to be mated to an Eastern Wood-Pewee.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — [8 North, 5 South] Reported from Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Sherburne, Hennepin, Scott,

Rice, Lac Qui Parle. Northbound migrants identified by voice 6/3 Scott BAF.

Acadian Flycatcher — [8 South] Reported from Anoka, Hennepin, Scott, Dakota, Goodhue, Rice, Blue Earth, Houston. Territories not established at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. for the first time in 20 years BAF.

Alder Flycatcher — [25 North, 17 South] Reported from a record high number of counties, in all regions of the state except Southeast. Vocalizing birds still present 7/4 Meeker DMF, 7/8 Scott BAF; the latter occupied a territory at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. since late May.

Willow Flycatcher — [5 North, 31 South] Reported in all regions in South plus Polk, Norman, Clay, Wilkin, Otter Tail.

Least Flycatcher — [32 North, 39 South] Reported from record high number of counties statewide.



Eastern Phoebe — [29 North, 41 South] Observed throughout the state.



Great Crested Flycatcher — [31 North, 45 South] Observed in record high number of counties in all regions of the state.



Western Kingbird — [6 North, 16 South] Seen south and west of a line from Polk to Anoka.



Eastern Kingbird — [34 North, 48 South] Observed statewide.



Reported throughout the state.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER — [1 North] New county record: 6/7 **Cass** (Bena) KeC, †SC.

Loggerhead Shrike — [3 North, 7 South] Seen in Polk, Clay, St. Louis, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Stearns, Meeker, Dakota, Goodhue, Steele. First county breeding record for *Polk* AXH.



Gray Jay — [11 North] Reported from record high number of counties. Observed in Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine, and Otter Tail.



Blue Jay — [29 North, 45 South] Reported from all regions of the state.



WHITE-EYED VIREO — [1 South] New county record: 6/14–18 **Pipestone** (Pipestone National Monument) ph. KTP.

Bell's Vireo — [5 South] Reported within usual range from Hennepin, Dakota, Goodhue, Waseca, Blue Earth.

Yellow-throated Vireo — [20 North, 38 South] Reported from record high number of counties in all regions of the state.

Blue-headed Vireo — [10 North, 1 South] North reports from Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, Hubbard, Cass, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine. Late south migrant 6/2 Jackson AXH.

Warbling Vireo — [25 North, 45 South] Reported statewide. New county nesting record for *Todd* JSK.



Black-billed Magpie — [11 North] Seen in the counties of Roseau, Marshall, Red Lake, Polk, Norman, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Clearwater, Cass, Itasca, and St. Louis.

American Crow — [33 North, 48 South] Reported throughout the state.



Common Raven — [17 North, 1 South] Seen in all northern regions plus Pine, Sherburne.

Horned Lark — [19 North, 45 South] Reported from record high number of counties in all regions except Northeast.



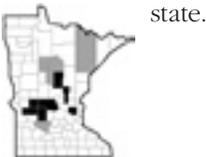
Philadelphia Vireo — [2 North, 1 South] Northbound migrant 6/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU. All other reports: 6/1 Beltrami MHK *et al.*, 6/10 Lake KRE, LS, 6/14 Lake SGW.

Red-eyed Vireo — [31 North, 46 South]

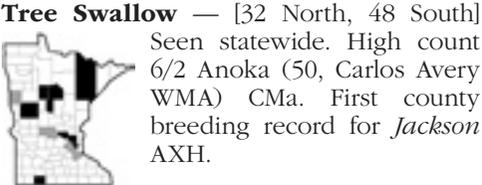
Purple Martin — [19 North, 40 South] Reported from a record high number of counties throughout all regions of the



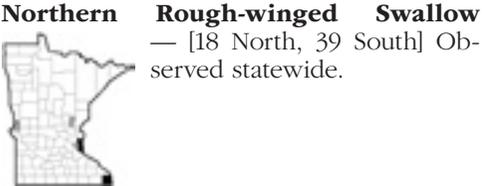
Albinistic Black-capped Chickadee, 9 June 2007, Avon, Stearns County. Photo by Deb Pflueger.



Bank Swallow — [20 North, 42 South]
 Reported from all regions of the state. High count 6/30 Lac Qui Parle (100, colony in bank at Yellow Bank Hills S.N.A.) RBJ.



Cliff Swallow — [31 North, 48 South]
 Reported statewide.



Barn Swallow — [34 North, 50 South]
 Observed throughout the state.

Black-capped Chickadee — [28 North, 48 South] Seen in all regions of the state.



Boreal Chickadee — [4 North] All reports: 6/1 Koochiching RBW, 6/14 Lake (4) NRRI, 6/20 St. Louis (3) NRRI, 6/30 Cook HHD, 7/1 Cook KRE.



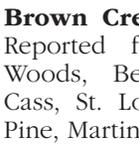
Tufted Titmouse — [1 South] Reported throughout summer from Fillmore JEB, JWH, NBO.



Red-breasted Nuthatch — [23 North, 10 South] Record high number of reports from all regions except Southeast. First county breeding record for *Anoka* JLH.



White-breasted Nuthatch — [25 North, 44 South] Observed statewide.



Brown Creeper — [11 North, 2 South] Reported from Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Koochiching, Itasca, Cass, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Mille Lacs, Pine, Martin (6/5, MCBS), Anoka.

Carolina Wren — [3 South] All reports: 6/1, 6/2 Hennepin ALD, 6/20 Ramsey KBa. First county breeding record for *Olmsted* OWB.



House Wren — [31 North, 49 South] Re-

ported statewide.



Winter Wren — [11 North, 1 South] Found throughout the North-central and Northeast regions. Unusual was 6/22 Washington RBJ.



Sedge Wren — [32 North, 44 South] Observed in all regions of the state. High count 6/24 Scott (17, Murphy-Hanrehan Park, south horse trails) BAF.



Marsh Wren — [25 North, 41 South] Reported from all regions of the state. High count 6/2 Jackson (20) AXH.



Golden-crowned Kinglet — [10 North, 1 South] Seen in Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Cass, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, and 6/19–7/16 Sherburne ASC.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet — [6 North] Reported throughout the month of June in Cook County. All other reports: 6/1 Lake of the Woods *file* JMJ, 6/1 Beltrami MHK, 6/6 Cass ABi, 6/13 Lake NRRI, 6/20 St. Louis NRRI, 6/27 Cass NRRI, 6/29 St. Louis DBF.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher — [5 North, 40 South] Record high number of reports. Observed in all regions of the state except



the Northwest.

Eastern Bluebird — [29 North, 44 South]
Seen statewide.



Veery — [30 North, 19 South] Reported from record high number of counties, in all regions except Southwest.



Swainson's Thrush — [4 North, 2 South]
Late northward migrants 6/1 Lac Qui Parle (5) BJU, 6/1 Scott BAF, 6/8 Pine MCA, 6/12 St. Louis (Southworth Marsh, Duluth) PHS. Additional reports from Cook, Lake and St. Louis.



Hermit Thrush — [16 North] Record high number of reports, as far south as Pine, Aitkin, Cass and Wadena.



Wood Thrush — [16 North, 31 South] Reported from record high number of counties in all regions but Northwest. Breeding density of 27 territories in 3 km² highest recorded by BAF at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.



American Robin — [33 North, 49 South]
Reported statewide.



Gray Catbird — [29 North, 48 South]
Observed in all regions of the state.



Northern Mockingbird — [1 North]
Reported 7/9 St. Louis (Duluth Lakewalk) TAN.



Brown Thrasher — [24 North, 42 South]
Reported from all regions of the state.



European Starling — [27 North, 47 South]
Seen throughout the state.



Cedar Waxwing — [29 North, 45 South]
Observed statewide. High count 6/5 Anoka (20) CAB.



Blue-winged Warbler — [2 North, 19 South]
Most reports ever. Reported from all regions of south except West-central, plus 6/2 Mille Lacs HHD, 6/17 Hubbard HHD, KRE.



Golden-winged Warbler — [16 North, 3 South]
Reported from all northern regions except Northwest and West-central, plus all summer in Sherburne m.ob., 6/15 Chisago AKe, 6/25 Stearns RPR.



Tennessee Warbler — [5 North, 3 South] Northbound migrant 6/11 Cottonwood MCBS. North reports from Cass, Itasca, St. Louis, and Cook. Early south migrants 7/27 Hennepin (several) DWK, 7/31 Blue Earth ChH, 7/31 Lac Qui Parle (4) BJU.



Pine, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, plus 6/9 Ramsey CAB.

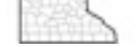
Nashville Warbler — [18 North] Reported from all northern regions.

Black-throated Green Warbler — [13 North] Reported from Roseau, most North-central and all Northeast counties.

Northern Parula — [11 North] Observed in Koochiching, Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Blackburnian Warbler — [14 North] Observed in Roseau, Mille Lacs, most North-central and all Northeast counties.

Yellow Warbler — [32 North, 46 South] Reported statewide.



Chestnut-sided Warbler — [21 North, 8 South] Reported north and east of a line from Marshall to Scott, plus Redwood. First county breeding records for *Washington* AXH, *Sherburne* PLJ.



Pine Warbler — [15 North, 5 South] Reported from North-central and Northeast regions plus Becker, Otter Tail, Morrison, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Sherburne, Isanti, Anoka, Washington.

Palm Warbler — [6 North] Seen in Roseau, Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis.

Bay-breasted Warbler — [3 North] All reports: 6/2 Aitkin NSc, 6/2 Cass ABi, 6/7 Aitkin ASc, 6/10 Pine MCA.

Magnolia Warbler — [8 North, 1 South] Observed in Koochiching, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine, plus northbound migrant 6/1 Meeker DMF.

Blackpoll Warbler — [2 North] North-bound migrants 6/2 Cass ABi, 6/5 St. Louis PHS.

Cape May Warbler — [9 North] Reported from record number of counties. Observed in Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Cass, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Pine, St. Louis, Lake, Cook. High count 6/16 St. Louis (14, most individuals detected since 1997) NRRI.

Cerulean Warbler — [2 North, 7 South] New county records: 6/1 **Koochiching** (Bill Counters PWA on the Big Fork River along Highway 6) RBW, 6/15 **Carlton** (North Fork of the Nemadji River at County Road 103) RBW. Also seen in Sibley, Scott, Dakota, Brown, Rice, Wabasha, Houston.

Black-throated Blue Warbler — [4 North] Reported from Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook. High count 6/12 Cook (13) NRRI.

Black-and-white Warbler — [20 North, 3 South] Reported from all northern regions except West-central, plus 6/3 Sherburne (2) DWK, 6/5 Jackson RBJ, 6/15 Sherburne (5) ASc, 7/23 Anoka (2) DWK.



American Redstart — [31 North, 40 South] Reported from record high number of counties in all regions of the state.



Prothonotary Warbler — [7 South] Observed in Sherburne, Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Nicollet, Goodhue, and Winona.



Ovenbird — [26 North, 30 South] Reported from all regions of the state.



Northern Waterthrush — [5 North, 2 South] Observed in Itasca, Cass, St. Louis, Lake, Cook. Late northward migrant 6/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, while 6/22 Anoka RBJ was likely summering.

Louisiana Waterthrush — [4 South] All reports: 6/1 Houston NBO, 6/17 Blue Earth, Nicollet BJU, 6/18 Fillmore JWH, 6/23 Blue Earth RMD.

Kentucky Warbler — [1 South] Reported 6/17 Blue Earth (adult male at the falls of Minneopa State Park) BJU.

Connecticut Warbler — [7 North] Observed in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis.

Mourning Warbler — [17 North, 8 South] Reported from all regions except West-central and Southwest.



Common Yellowthroat — [33 North, 50

South] Reported statewide.



Hooded Warbler — [2 South] Observed throughout period in Scott and Dakota (Murphy-Hanrehan Park) ADS, BAF, DAB, DWK, JLO, JPM.



Wilson's Warbler — [3 North] All records: 6/6 Cass ABi, 6/14 Lake (4) SGW, 6/20 Lake of the Woods *fide* JMJ.

Canada Warbler — [8 North, 4 South] Reported from record high number of counties. Observed north in Koochiching, Clearwater, Itasca, Cass, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, and late south migrants 6/1 Meeker DMF, Scott BAF, Lac Qui Parle BJU, 6/3 Hennepin DWK.

Yellow-breasted Chat — [1 North, 2 South] New county record: 6/29–30 **Aitkin** (Auto Tour Route at Rice Lake N.W.R.) PHS *et al.* South reports through 6/23 Dakota (nesting attempt by a pair in Cliff Fen Park, Black Dog Preserve) †AXH, †CMB, †JPM, JLO, LS, m.ob., 6/23 Blue Earth (Minneopa State Park) RMD.



Summer Tanager — [1 South] Observed 6/19, 6/26 Jackson (Kilen Woods State Park) MCBS.

Scarlet Tanager — [23 North, 33 South] Reported from all regions of the state.

Eastern Towhee — [10 North, 20 South] Reported from every region.





Yellow-breasted Chat, 2 June 2007, Cliff Fen Park, Black Dog Preserve, Dakota County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

Chipping Sparrow — [33 North, 49 South] Observed statewide. New county nesting record for *Pine JMP*.



Vesper Sparrow — [20 North, 45 South] Seen in all regions except Northeast.



Clay-colored Sparrow — [31 North, 40 South] Reported throughout the state.



Lark Sparrow — [5 North, 20 South] Observed in all regions except North-central and Northeast. Unusual report 6/17 Fillmore CAB. High count 6/22 Anoka (10, Helen Allison Savannah S.N.A.) RBJ.



Field Sparrow — [11 North, 40 South] Observed in all regions except the Northeast.



LARK BUNTING — [1 North] Singing male observed 6/23–7/1 Polk (near Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) LS, JCC, †DAB, †PCC, ph. †JM], ph. †PHS, m.ob.

Savannah Sparrow — [30 North, 48 South] Observed statewide.

Grasshopper Sparrow — [16 North, 39 South] Reported throughout the state.



Henslow's Sparrow — [3 North, 21 South] Reported in all southern regions as well as Clay, Todd, Morrison. New county record 6/11 **Watonwan** (singing male, South Branch Twp.) MCBS. High count 6/24 Scott (14, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., south horse trails) BAF.

Le Conte's Sparrow — [24 North, 4 South] Reported from throughout northern regions plus Benton, Isanti, Swift, and Lac Qui Parle.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow — [8 North] Observed in Polk, Norman, Clay, Wilkin, Traverse, Cass, Aitkin, Morrison.



Song Sparrow — [32 North, 49 South] Reported statewide.



Lincoln's Sparrow — [9 North] Seen in Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine.

Swamp Sparrow — [29 North, 44 South] Reported from all regions of the state. First county breeding record from *Ramsey* AXH.



White-throated Sparrow — [16 North] Reported from North-central and North-east regions plus Roseau, Otter Tail, Pine.

Dark-eyed Junco — [5 North, 1 South] Multiple reports from Cass, St. Louis and Lake, and also 6/7 Sherburne (no details) ASc, 7/3 Wadena PJB.

Chestnut-collared Longspur — [1 North, 1 South] Seen throughout the season in Clay (max. 6, Felton Prairie) m.ob. Unusual south 6/9 Pipestone (2, Altona Township) MCBS.

Northern Cardinal — [16 North, 42 South] Reported from all regions of the state.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak — [25 North, 42 South] Observed throughout the state. First county breeding record for *Chisago* AKe.



Blue Grosbeak — [7 South] Seen in Lac Qui Parle, Pipestone, Rock, Redwood, Cottonwood, **Jackson**, Brown.

Indigo Bunting — [22 North, 49 South] Reported statewide.

PAINTED BUNTING — An adult male 7/18 **Murray** (Moulton Twp.) †NED was a first county record.

Dickcissel — [17 North, 44 South] Observed in central and southern regions as well as Polk, Norman, Clay, Clearwater, Hubbard, Wadena, Cass, Aitkin, Carlton.

Bobolink — [32 North, 44 South] Seen throughout the state.

Red-winged Blackbird — [33 North, 49 South] Reported from all counties except Pennington, Mahnomen, Nobles, Dodge, Mower.



Eastern Meadowlark — [19 North, 28 South] Reported from eastern and central regions plus Clay, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Cottonwood, Jackson.



Orchard Oriole — [6 North, 31 South] Reported south and west of a line from Polk to Washington and Fillmore. First county breeding record for *Murray* RBJ.



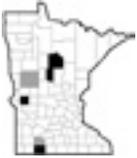
Western Meadowlark — [15 North, 32 South] Reported from all regions except Northeast.



Baltimore Oriole — [29 North, 46 South] Reported from all regions of the state. First county breeding record for *St. Louis* SLF.



Yellow-headed Blackbird — [17 North, 33 South] Observed in all regions except Southeast. High count 6/8 Dakota (140, 140th and Highview) JPM. First county breeding record for *Cass* AXH.



Purple Finch — [18 North] Reported across the north plus Pine and Kanabec.

House Finch — [24 North, 46 South] Observed statewide.



Brewer's Blackbird — [26 North, 24 South] Reported from record high number of counties in all regions.

Common Grackle — [32 North, 49 South] Seen statewide. High count 6/24 Steele (118) NFT.



Red Crossbill — [5 North] All reports: 6/3 Cass (24) BAW, 6/9 Lake SGW, 6/13 Cook NRRI, 6/16 Lake NRRI, 6/20 St. Louis (17) NRRI, 6/23 Itasca NRRI, 7/2 Cass NRRI, 7/30 St. Louis SGW.

White-winged Crossbill — [4 North] Reported 6/12 Cook NRRI, 6/14 Lake NRRI, 6/20 St. Louis NRRI, 6/27 Cass NRRI, 7/2 Lake (5) JWJL.

Great-tailed Grackle — [4 South] All records: 6/1 Watonwan (Odin Twp.) MCBS, 6/2 Jackson AXH, 6/4 Cottonwood (Rose Hill Twp.) MCBS, 6/5, 6/21, 6/27 Martin (2 locations) MCBS, 6/9–23 Jackson (14 different locations) MCBS, 6/18 Pipestone (Engbarth Slough) †BJU.



Pine Siskin — [7 North, 3 South] Seen in Koochiching, Itasca, Cass, Crow Wing, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, plus 6/19 Cottonwood MCBS, 7/6 Washington LMS, 7/9 Dakota RLW.



Brown-headed Cowbird — [29 North, 48 South] Observed throughout the state.



American Goldfinch — [33 North, 50 South] Observed statewide.



Evening Grosbeak — [5 North] All reports: 6/1 Cook RBJ, 6/12 Cook NRRI, 6/17 Lake NRRI, 6/20 St. Louis (11) NRRI, (2) SLF, 6/24 Itasca NRRI, 7/2 Lake JWJ, 7/10 Hubbard MAW.



House Sparrow — [31 North, 47 South] Seen throughout the state.

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Abbreviations

m. ob. many observers
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge
 P.R. Park Reserve
 S.N.A. Scientific and Natural Area
 Twp. Township
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area
 W.T.P. Wastewater Treatment Plant

Birding by Hindsight

A Third Look at The Internet

Kim R. Eckert



Mistakes? Me? Well, maybe, if you include things like a certain Minnesota bird-finding guide stating that the world-famous Underwood sewage ponds are a half mile west of County Road 35. (They're actually a half mile east — with mistakes like this, no wonder many birders I know affectionately call it "The Damn Book.")

OK, but what about bird identification mistakes? Well, I suppose, but I believe the statute of limitations has run out on that time in California decades ago when I misidentified a distant sleeping oystercatcher as a pigeon. (Don't ask!) And some have claimed that I made a mistake in early spring once along the Mississippi by saying a distant group of swimming

pelicans was an ice floe — until they got up and flew. (I still say it was just an ice floe having a severe aerial reaction to global warming.)

Anything else? Well, it was also years ago when I had mistaken this woman's friendliness for something more, and, uh.... But enough about me. And besides, what does any of this have to do with the title of this article?

Unfortunately, there is a connection between birding and the internet as far as possible ID errors getting publicity in places like the MOU's listserv (MOU-net) and the seasonal report maps on MOU's website (<http://moum.org/cgi-bin/maps.pl>). While both forums are monitored, neither is edited, so that birders are free

to post both accurate sightings and those which raise questions. Of course, the vast majority of them are correct, but it's not always obvious which ones may not be.

It might be worth repeating here a paragraph from the "Hindsight" installment in the Summer 2004 issue of *The Loon* (76:48–50), which was the so-called second look at the internet:

"Also consider those timely posts of rarities on mou-net which we all look forward to. I would think that most if not all subscribers assume these reports represent correct IDs and legitimate sightings. But are they? What if there is a posting, or series of postings, of a rarity that was the result of human error, an honest mistake, a misidentification? Whatever you wish to call it, we all make them, they're nothing to be ashamed of, and they do appear on mou-net. One unfortunate consequence is subscribers might then get an inaccurate impression of what a species' status really is or of what a season's birding highlights truly were. Another consequence is when a birder goes out to subsequently relocate a rarity that never really was, and makes the same ID error when assumptions and hopeful expectations cloud his or her perceptions."

The point is that something reported is not always the same as something actually seen. Consider the *Weekly World News*, for example — you know, one of those tabloids you see in the supermarket. A recent story was headlined "Alien Bible Translated: Extraterrestrials follow the teachings of Oprah Winfrey." While I certainly consider most newspapers and their articles to be credible, I kind of have my doubts about the existence of extraterrestrials and their alien bibles. (I've been assured, though, that Oprah really does exist.)

In a way, I sometimes wonder if this series of "Hindsight" articles has sort of been alien to some readers of this journal, in that these birders may consider the ID topics discussed as too hypothetical, operating in a vacuum, not applicable to them, foreign to their experience, not even worth reading. I've been reminded

of this after looking over this spring's reports posted so far on the internet, with two previous articles especially coming to mind — articles which apparently failed to communicate with enough birders.

One was way back in the Spring 1995 issue of *The Loon* (67:40–44 — only the second installment in this long series), which discussed ID difficulties relating to birds being reported out-of-season. The other article was much more recent, in the Spring 2007 issue (79:44–50), about the most common misidentified species. To refresh your memory, one or both of these articles discussed Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, peep-type shorebirds, Common Tern, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Wood-Pewee, House Wren, thrushes, Chipping Sparrow, and meadowlarks. It's disappointing, then, to see these same birds appearing yet again on the internet recently as possible misidentifications.

But before getting into the specifics of these real live reports, to ensure birders understand these articles are meant to be constructive rather than critical, it's worth repeating the reminder which concluded the Spring 2007 "Hindsight" installment:

"Let's keep in mind that this essay is not intended to be critical of those who make these common mistakes. The intent here is to help birders of all abilities to be aware of and thus avoid — or at least understand — those difficulties others often have."

So, following are the reported sightings that especially caught my eye. All are just from this spring season: March through the time of this writing in late April. (I could have included here some reports from last winter: an unprecedented December report of a Broad-winged Hawk, an alleged January sighting of a first-ever Spruce Grouse in the Sax-Zim Bog, and where did that anonymous Swallow-tailed Kite claim in January come from?! But I had to draw the time line somewhere.) All were posted on the MOU-net listserv or the MOU website's seasonal report maps, and, unless stated otherwise, the reports are apparently undocumented.

Note they fall into four categories (two

of which are even good to be in), but you'll see the largest group involves earlier-than-normal migrants. The source for the median earliest dates over the past 20 years appears on MOU's website (<http://moumn.org/cgi-bin/migration.pl>). Please note this is the only current and accurate compilation of early and late migration dates.

Initially Doubtful / Later Credible

- Hooded Warbler. A female reported on 20 April in Hennepin County certainly raised some skeptical eyebrows, mine included, especially since the earliest date for this rarity is normally not until 10 May. Incredibly, though, a report came in later of an obvious male photographed in Nicollet County a day earlier, thus lending credence to that sighting on the 20th!

Corrected by Observer

- Snowy Egret. The reported count of over 50 Snowys on 17 April in Ramsey County would certainly have been unprecedented. To the observer's credit, though, she later admitted this report was a typo, and she meant to say Great Egrets. It is indeed refreshing when birders acknowledge their mistakes — rather than bristle with indignation — when errors are called to their attention.

- Swainson's Thrush. Here's another observer who deserves similar credit for admitting a mistake and not defensively dismissing those who suggested that an error might have occurred. After reporting a Swainson's on 13 April in Hennepin County (normal earliest 26 April), he graciously allowed that he probably saw a Hermit Thrush, the default thrush in Minnesota through mid-April.

Unusually Early Dates

- Broad-winged Hawk on 19 March (normal earliest North 9 April). A Cooper's or Red-shouldered hawk would be far more likely in March, and, because of their banded tails, both have been mistaken for Broad-winged Hawks at this time of year.

- Swainson's Hawk on 19 March (nor-

mal earliest North 18 April). In this case, I'd have to guess this may have been a Red-tailed, many of which have dark throats/sides of neck and are often misidentified as Swainson's.

- Semipalmated Plovers on 30 March (normal earliest South 22 April) and 3 April (normal earliest North 6 May). Perhaps these observers simply couldn't see a second breast band and were unaware a Semi then would have been a month early? Indeed, one of the observers (a casual birder) mentioned on his non-birding blog that the bird in question was noisy and calling continuously — a Killdeer characteristic, of course. (Ah, yes, blogs! My only comment is there was this cartoon in *The New Yorker* with one dog saying to another: "I used to have my own blog for a while, but I decided to go back to just pointless, incessant barking.")

- Whimbrel on 27 March (normal earliest 19 May). Although an improbably early record, the experienced observer knew the date was wrong, and his documentation is very convincing. I have seen even experienced birders, though, sometimes puzzle over the identity of a large shorebird, wondering if it's a Whimbrel or Long-billed Curlew. And the latter species, with some records here in April, would seem more likely in late March.

- Common Tern on 16 April (normal earliest 25 April). At most places in Minnesota, like the small wetland involved in this sighting, the Forster's (which other birders were seeing here at the time) is always the default species of tern — especially this early in spring. If a birder is unaware of this and relies too much on a species' name, an erroneous Common Tern report is the natural result.

- Common Nighthawk on 15 April (normal earliest 29 April). If it was actually seen, and not just heard, then it's hard to imagine what else this bird might have been. But if this was heard-only, note that both "peenting" woodcocks and courting male goldeneyes give a nighthawk-like buzzing call and are much more likely this early in April.

- Eastern Wood-Pewees on 20 April

and 22 April (normal earliest 4 May). The default flycatcher this early in spring is always the Eastern Phoebe.

I never understood why field guides insist on portraying this species without wing bars: in reality, many phoebes have obvious wing bars and thus have a long history of being mistaken for wood-peewees.

- House Wren on 6 April (normal earliest 18 April). Any wren in early April is most likely to be a Winter Wren. Since the plumage differences between this and the House Wren are subtle, it's easy to see why ID errors can result.

- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on 16 April (normal earliest North 7 May). Indeed, I concede this ID may well have been correct: after all, what else looks like a gnatcatcher? A poorly seen junco (with white outer tail feathers) or Ruby-crowned Kinglet (with white eye ring)? Or was it something only heard and not seen, like an off-key chickadee? Some brief documentation would certainly clear this up.

- Veery on 9 April (normal earliest North 8 May). Any thrush other than a Hermit in early April is always unexpected and calls for more information. Thrushes typically lurk in the shadows in heavy cover, making their subtle field marks and identities hard to determine. Frequent thrush ID errors are the understandable result.

- Wood Thrushes on 6 April and 13 April (normal earliest South 1 May), and 19 April (normal earliest North 8 May). Again, like the Veery report above, these three thrushes were similarly and almost certainly Hermits.

- Chipping Sparrow on 2 March (normal earliest 26 March). To his credit, the observer knew the date was unusual and provided documentation, but no fewer than 20 individuals were reported, and the ID seemed to rely heavily on the sparrows' lack of a breast spot. This mark on American Tree Sparrow, though, is often just an indistinct gray smudge rather than the clean-cut black spot shown in the field guides, and it can disappear entirely if the sparrow fluffs up its breast

feathers. (Conversely, beware of Swamp Sparrows which often show a tree sparrow-like breast spot!) Unfortunately, Chipping Sparrows have such a long history of erroneous winter reports that all out-of-season sightings seem suspicious.

- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow on 16 April (normal earliest 13 May). Even within its breeding range, this sparrow is not easily found and seen, so a report of a highly visible bird in mid-April in the Twin Cities (where that Common Tern was claimed) is thus especially newsworthy — and documentation-worthy. So far, the only plumage description given mentions a gray crown and nothing else (like a Swamp Sparrow?), and the observer heard it give an undescribed song.

- Rose-breasted Grosbeak on 14 April (normal earliest North 3 May). If this was a male, then I don't really know what else you'd confuse it with. Or was it a female Purple Finch, which I have sometimes seen birders mistake for a female grosbeak? Here's yet another sighting which would be clarified with just a little description.

- Bobolink on 20 April (normal earliest North 6 May). So, what else looks like a Bobolink and is more likely in April? I have seen birders confuse females with Le Conte's Sparrows (which often show up in late April), so maybe the mistake in reverse is possible? Or was it a partial albino blackbird, about the only other reasonable black-and-white alternative in April which might resemble a male Bobolink? Or was it really a Bobolink?

Rarities on Any Date

- White-winged Scoter in Mower County. Yes, this scoter (and the other two) can occur away from Lake Superior, Mille Lacs, and other big lakes, but I've seen other dark ducks with white wing patches (e.g., female Common Goldeneye) mislead less experienced birders. A simple description of the bird could easily erase any doubts about it.

- Prairie Falcon in Lac Qui Parle County. This rarity is barely a regular Minnesota species, and without documentation it's

fair to wonder if the observer might have seen a *tundrius* Peregrine or a *richardsoni* Merlin instead. As shown in your field guide, both have head patterns remarkably similar to a Prairie Falcon's.

- Mew Gull in Blue Earth County. With only three previous state records of this accidental species, this report of a first-winter bird will hopefully be supported by some additional documentation. The initial descriptions actually sounded pretty good, but it didn't help to learn of two other optimistic observers with high expectations mistaking a Ring-billed for a Mew Gull the next day at the same lake.

- Mountain Bluebird in Meeker County. This ID was probably correct, especially if it was a male, but this regular species is still rare enough that at least some documentation would be reassuring.

- Eastern Meadowlark in Swift, Chipewewa, and Lac Qui Parle counties. Since the default meadowlark in these counties would be the Western, without documentation you have to wonder how these IDs were made. Even if a distinctive Eastern song was heard, keep in mind that hybrid meadowlarks do occur, and they can sing

an atypical song — or even alternate between both songs.

So, is it possible that some of the birds listed above were correctly identified and truly seen? Of course: again, note that improbable female Hooded Warbler was apparently a correct ID after all. But it's also a good possibility that some observers here simply made mistakes — and, whether or not they did this spring, other birders before them made the same ones. And, when there were identification errors, should the observers feel guilty, embarrassed, defensive, or even angry about them? Definitely not. They need only be reminded that they are human, that all of us can make mistakes in everything we do (birding included!), and that one of the best ways to learn is from making mistakes.

And, besides, if such errors are made, none of them could be as bad as that time decades ago when a certain beginner mistook a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls for Common Goldeneyes. (Again, don't ask!)

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Notes of Interest



RUFF IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY — On 28 July 2007, during a shorebird survey at Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Lac Qui Parle County, Minnesota, we found a Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) along the southeast shoreline of the Ruby Red Peninsula in East Pool. Eleven other shorebird species (563 individuals) including one Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*), numerous Lesser Yellowlegs (*T. flavipes*), and several Stilt Sandpipers (*Calidris himantopus*) were also seen at Ruby Red and ultimately, we tallied 2,251 shorebirds of 17 species at the refuge that day. We watched the Ruff for 45 minutes until it suddenly took

off, circled over the rest of the shorebirds, then flew overhead and disappeared to the northwest.

This was a fat, dumpy-looking shorebird with a pot-bellied shape. Its head looked proportionately small compared to the size of its body. In body size, it appeared larger

than a Lesser Yellowlegs, smaller than a Greater Yellowlegs, and much larger than a Stilt Sandpiper. It was preening and bathing throughout much of the time that we observed the bird. Its bill was relatively short for a bird of these proportions and was slightly downcurved. Bill color was difficult to determine and eye color was impossible to detect at the estimated distance of 300 yards. Its legs were bright orange and consistently appeared bright orange at all times.

Its head and neck were grayish with a whitish face, but there was no distinct demarcation between the two; the whitish area was most apparent near the base of the bill and continued onto the chin. Its back, scapulars, upper wing-coverts, and folded wings were brownish. The upper wing-coverts and tertials were thinly edged with buff. No pale "wing stripe" or other wing markings were detected when it held its wings open while preening, but whitish oval patches on its rump and upper tail-coverts were obvious. A grayish wash was noted on both sides of its upper breast. Its belly looked pale, but the exact color was not noted. In flight, its underwings were whitish and contrasted with its body; Dale also noted whitish underwings while the bird was preening.

As it flew overhead, the bird delivered a low, raspy, tern-like croak several times. Neither Dale nor I had ever heard a shorebird sound like this. Most references offer little or no information about this species' vocalizations; some simply state, "usually quiet" with no further explanation. Phil Chu looked up vocalizations of this species in Cramp (1983:397–398) and found the following description under the heading of "Alarm calls:" "Repeated short, soft, groaning sound 'gue-gue-gue,' with less than 1 s between units... nasal 'ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah'... or flat, nasal, buzz — 'nrr,' 'nr-nr-nr,' or 'nrrrr'... hoarse or raucous almost duck-like quacking audible at only close range.... At other times may resemble compressed 'atsch' of Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*...." Other sources describe "a low, single or double 'kuk'" (Beaman and Madge 1998:326) and "low grunting sounds" (Mullarney *et al.* 1999:156). We thank Phil Chu for researching vocalizations of this species. **Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812; Dale A. Yerger, 2197 Nature Center Drive Northwest, Hackensack, MN 56452.**

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APPARENT EURASIAN WIGEON X AMERICAN WIGEON HYBRID IN HENNEPIN COUNTY



— On 25 March 2007 a male Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) was reported from Hyland Lake in Bloomington, Hennepin County, and on 26 March I went to look for it. What I found was a bird that appeared to have not only Eurasian Wigeon but also American Wigeon (*A. americana*) genes.

The assertion of "mixed blood" is based on three characteristics.

(1) The forehead and forecrown were cream-colored, and below and behind them the ocular and postocular regions were an unmarked brownish red; however, the lores, cheeks, and neck were paler and duller, a light brown-gray, and were finely marked with dark flecks. (In a Eurasian, the neck and lower face are just as bright and reddish as the regions around and behind the eye, and dark flecks — if present — tend to be concentrated postocularly.)

(2) On the body, the breast was brown-pink and the flanks were mostly gray, but the brown-pink of the former invaded the gray of the latter, especially along the waterline.

The intermixed pinkish along the water-line extended far to the rear, reaching to or almost to the bird's conspicuous white "hip patch." (In a Eurasian, the flanks are plain gray, without any pinkish.)

(3) The bill — pale blue-white with a "dipped in ink" black tip and a narrow black line on the maxillary tomium — also had a narrow black line where the maxilla-sides met the facial feathering; this line weakened dorsally, so that I could see no black where the culmen met the feathers of the forehead. (In a Eurasian, there is no black at the bill-base — unlike in the American Wigeon, which has a narrow black line that occupies the base of the maxilla-sides, and often or always continues onto the basal culmen as well).

In other respects, the bird in question was rather similar to a "pure" Eurasian Wigeon. Its back and scapulars were gray, whereas the long and acuminate tertials were black with narrow white margins. Its rump was grayish white and, posterior to both the rump and the aforementioned white hip patch, the upper and under tail-coverts were black. As for the tail, it was blackish brown with some inconspicuous dirty whitish on the sides; I took the whitish to be pale outer-web margins on some of the more laterally located rectrices.

The first report of a hybrid between the Eurasian and American wigeons dates to the early 1900s (Bailey 1919, Hubbard 1971), though that report is preceded by an 1845 specimen that was misidentified as a pure Eurasian for over a century (Watson 1970); the number of reports has increased recently (e.g., Aubry 1981, Merrifield 1993, Jiguet 1999), and in at least one North American region *penelope* X *americana* hybrids have reportedly been observed as often as *penelope* (S. N. G. Howell in Hamilton 1996). In Minnesota, three such hybrids have been documented, with the present bird being the third, and like this one the first two (Svingen and Barton 1991, Fall 1995) were also initially thought to be pure Eurasians. **Philip Chu, Department of Biology, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN 56321.**



Eurasian Wigeon X American Wigeon, 25 March 2007, Hennepin County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

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Elegant Tern (lower left) and Caspian Tern, 28 June 2007, Leech Lake, Cass County. Photo by Steve Mortensen.

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The purpose of the MOU is the promotion of a broad program of conservation and natural history study, primarily in the field of ornithology.

To achieve this objective, the Union urges and promotes interest in field studies and observation of birds by individual members and affiliated bird clubs. We publish a quarterly journal, *The Loon*, and a newsletter, *Minnesota Birding*; we conduct



field trips; we encourage and sponsor the preservation of natural areas; and we hold seminars where research reports, unusual observations, and conservation discussions are presented.

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The Loon is a peer-reviewed journal on the birds of Minnesota published quarterly by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. The Editor welcomes submissions of articles, Notes of Interest, color slides, and photographs. All submissions should be typed, double-spaced, and single-sided. Notes of Interest should be less than two full pages. Photographs should be no smaller than 5"x7". Whenever possible, please include a digital copy of your submission in any standard format on floppy disk, CD, DVD, or via e-mail. Digital documents may be e-mailed to the Editor of *The Loon* — see inside front cover for contact information. Club information and other announcements of general interest should be sent to the Editor of our newsletter *Minnesota Birding* — see inside front cover for contact information. Bird sighting reports for each season should be sent to the Editor of "The Seasonal Report" — see "Key to The Seasonal Report" for contact information.



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A young bird, possibly a chickadee, is perched on a branch surrounded by large green leaves. The bird has a brown cap and a white breast. The background is a soft-focus green forest.

The Loon

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Obituary
Remembering Orwin
Orwin Alexander Rustad
1 September 1912 – 6 July 2008

Forest V. Strnad

Orwin was a good friend for more than 50 years. After I moved to Faribault in 1984, Orwin often took me birding and he helped me to find new species in the lakes and fields of Rice County. Orwin eagerly awaited a new year to see when he could find the first Horned Larks or the first Great Blue Herons to return to the island in General Shield's Lake.

As I remember, Orwin Alexander Rustad, the son of Ole and Adeline (Sparstad) Rustad, was born on 1 September 1912, in Leon Township, Goodhue County. After his parents moved to Faribault from their farm, Orwin watched the seasons change in Rice County. His interest in nature began with birds. He often told the story of how, when he was 11 years old, he tracked down a bird he could hear but could not identify. He made a sketch of the bird and sent it to the U.S. Biological Survey in Washington, D.C. He received an answer to his letter which identified his drawing as the Prairie Horned Lark, sparking his career as a field biologist.

Orwin attended Faribault High School and graduated with the class of 1934. He continued on to study at St. Olaf College in Northfield and graduated in 1942 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology. He earned his Master's Degree in Science Education from the University of Minnesota in 1953. Orwin took additional summer courses at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul and Duluth, Cornell University, and Oslo (Norway) University.

While taking summer classes at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, Orwin often would set up his nets on Park Point



Orwin A. Rustad, from the Shattuck-St. Mary's School yearbook of 1961.

to band terns. One of the terns dove down and struck Orwin in the head, so he had to go to student health services for treatment. The staff had difficulty putting on paper what happened. They finally decided to state that he "was stabbed by a tern."

On 8 September 1946, Orwin married Leona Giesler. Leona had attended many of the field trips that were part of Orwin's class. Their belated honeymoon was at Oslo University in Oslo, Norway, (delayed because of Orwin's schooling).

Orwin taught biology and field biology for a total of 46 years including Breck High School (14 years), St. Olaf College (5 years), and Shattuck-St. Mary's (27



Orwin Rustad at the River Bend Nature Center, September 1993. Photo by Kirsten Strnad.

years). It was always a pleasure to visit Orwin's classroom. There was a tall case of mounted birds and displays on the wall of birds by family. While he was still teaching, Orwin hosted several Elderhostel classes on birds at Shattuck-St. Mary's. One of the highlights of this experience was to see up close birds that were in the process of being banded. Orwin often asked me to set up the nets and band so he could explain bird banding to the students. He would point out field marks that identified the birds. Some of the participants got to release the birds back into the wild.

After his retirement in 1988, he was the campus naturalist for Shattuck-St. Mary's. During this time, Orwin established a network of trails in the Shattuck woods behind the ice arena on the bluffs above the Straight River for outdoor education.

For 47 years, Orwin pursued his hobby of banding birds. He received many interesting returns on the birds he banded including a Great Blue Heron and a Bank Swallow which were banded in the area and were later recaptured in Columbia, South America. Orwin enjoyed getting together with other banders, and one of the places was a large manure pile at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus. Nets were set up and Mourning Doves were netted and banded.

When looking back through the old copies of *The Flicker* and *The Loon*, there are many articles that Orwin wrote. In the 1956 and 1957 *Flickers*, some of the articles that appeared were: "Leisure Time Study of Birds," "Heron Island General Shield's Lake," and "Birds of Rice County." In *The Loon*, he wrote "Tree Swallows Nesting Study" and many others.

In 1951, Orwin co-founded the Rice County Christmas Bird Count with his friend and fellow naturalist the late Dr. George Rysgaard of Northfield. Orwin didn't miss a count from the beginning. In later years when he could no longer drive, he had to depend on friends to take him around the county on the day of the count in search of birds.

As a naturalist, Orwin's passion was observing animals, birds, and plant life. When Faribault was looking for projects to celebrate the bicentennial, Orwin suggested establishing a nature center. On 4 February 1975, the Bicentennial Committee of Faribault approved it as an official project. As a result, River Bend Nature Center was incorporated in April of 1979 and dedicated on 21 September 1980. Orwin is known as "the father of River Bend Nature Center." The road leading into the nature center was named "Rustad Road" in honor of Orwin.

As a scientist, Orwin kept very detailed records of natural events. He wasn't sure what to do with this information, but with the encouragement of friends, he worked on putting them into a book. *A Journal of Natural Events in Southeastern Minnesota* was published in 1997. The book is divided into the sections of phenology, plants, weather, animals, and birds. In the section on birds, the book gives information about the birds of Rice County and where to find them.

Orwin received many awards over the years. They include: Cum Laude Society at St. Mary's, the Service of Mankind Award from the Faribault Sertoma Club, the Bicentennial Hall of Fame Award from the city of Faribault, the WCCO Good Neighbor Award, the Meritorious Award from the Association of Interpretative Naturalists, the Book of Golden Deeds from the Faribault Exchange Club, and the Honorary Scroll Award from the Faribault Jaycees. He was also honored with the dedication of the Shattuck-St. Mary's School's "Orwin A. Rustad Outdoor Classroom Nature Trails." Even as Orwin continued to receive these and other recognitions of his work, he remained a humble man who always shared his expertise freely.

One of Orwin's favorite quotes was from John Muir, "When one tugs at a single thing in nature; he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

**715 Central Avenue North, #202,
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First Record of the Inca Dove in Minnesota

James W. Lind

While standing on my back porch at about 3:30 P.M. on 30 October 2007, a small dove that looked too small to be a Mourning Dove flew through my backyard. When it landed in an ash tree two doors down, I saw obvious rufous patches bordered by a line of darker plumage on the distal half of the wing as well as white outer tail feathers. I ran into the house to get binoculars and when I got back outside, it was gone from the ash tree. I relocated it feeding on the ground beneath a feeder at the east end of our alley, and was excited to see it was an Inca Dove.

I was able to get a few photos before the bird disappeared into the nearby cedars, so I quickly ran back home to get the word out about the sighting. Several observers got to see the bird later in the afternoon, and dozens more saw it during the next five weeks until the last observation on 5 December 2007. The bird was seen most consistently in the yard at the east end of our alley, and the homeowner was thrilled to be visited by so many birders. The local newspaper even ran a photo of him holding a certificate of appreciation given to him by the MOU for hosting the bird.

The base plumage was tan and most of the bird was covered with dark scaling. The scaling started just above the forehead on the crown and extended to the rump, but not out onto the tail feathers. The forehead and front half of the face were a paler tan than the rest of the body (almost whitish). The dark scaling on the underparts was clearly not as heavy, and extended from the throat to the belly and undertail coverts. The entire underside of the folded tail was white when observed from below. The tail was a little more than half the length of the rest of

the body. The bill was short, black, and slightly decurved, the eyes were deep red and the feet were pink. The rufous patches on the distal half of the wing were again seen when the bird flew from the ground and when it later flew from a telephone wire. A broad area of white formed by the outer rectrices was again seen in flight. The tail was squared off at the tip and it did not look pointed when in flight. Overall body size was about half that of a Rock Pigeon, and about 1.5 times the size of a House Sparrow (direct comparison). No vocalizations were heard.

Common Ground-Doves have a similar wing pattern as Inca Doves and have scaling on the head and chest, but this does not cover the belly or wings. They have a red or pink-based bill, a very stubby tail with less white, and often have a bluish wash to the head. Ruddy Ground-Dove also has a similar wing pattern, but it lacks the heavy scaling and it has a whitish gray head and a shorter bill. Immature Mourning Doves sometimes have a scaled appearance around the head, but not over the entire body.

With a recent history of vagrancy across eastern North America and with several records in surrounding states and provinces, Inca Dove has been predicted to appear in Minnesota for several years. Both of Ontario's records occurred during the fall just north of the Minnesota border in the Rainy River district. The first was at Atikokan on 7–13 October 1992 (Graham and Wormington 1993), and the second was at Fort Frances on 24–28 September 2001 (Crins 2003). Michigan's first record was found at Whitefish Point on 7–11 October 2004 (Chartier 2005, Chu 2005). South Dakota and North Dakota each have records, but Iowa and Wisconsin currently do not. In addition to va-



Inca Dove, 2 November 2007, Two Harbors, Lake County. Photo by James W. Lind.

grancy during migration, the Inca Dove's breeding range has expanded recently, particularly in the southern Great Plains. Nesting now has been documented in southwestern Kansas, Oklahoma, southwestern Utah, and southern Nevada (Mueller 2004).

Thanks to Peder Svingen for summarizing distributional and breeding records.

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320 – 2nd Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616-1620.

The Fall Season

1 August through 30 November 2007

Paul E. Budde¹, Robert M. Dunlap², Douglas W. Kieser³,
James W. Lind⁴, and William C. Marengo⁵

Minnesota's ninth **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** stayed for three days in a secluded park in west Bloomington. **Ross's Goose** — a much more common spring than fall migrant — made an impressive showing from eight different locations scattered across the state. A **Harlequin Duck** made a brief appearance in St. Louis County. All three scoters produced record high or second highest fall counts in October. A male **Barrow's Goldeneye** was photographed in Duluth in early October.

A record early **Red-throated Loon** was seen in Duluth at the end of August, to be followed a month later by several more individuals. **Pacific Loons** were recorded in Meeker and Stearns, in addition to one in St. Louis.

Several Iowa birders watched the first confirmed **Magnificent Frigatebird** soar into Minnesota airspace in early September. Photographs enabled this female to be conclusively identified to species, unlike the prior three encounters with frigatebirds in the state.

An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** roosting with Black-crowned in Minneapolis was an unusual fall record.

Careful study revealed that what was first thought to be a juvenile **Gyr Falcon** on Minnesota Point was actually a **Gyr-falcon X Saker Falcon**; further research showed that it had escaped from a falconer in Toronto, Ontario.

The summer **Common Moorhen** in Waseca lingered through 19 August. Impressive counts of **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were tallied. The only **Whimbrel** away from the North Shore was a first county record for Hennepin. **Hudsonian**

Godwits were limited to the western third of the state. **Red Knots** were reported from two western counties and St. Louis. Seen and documented by many was the juvenile **Western Sandpiper** found at the Sleepy Eye lagoons in Brown. Two large flocks of **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** in Chisago and Dakota accounted for more than half the statewide total. **Wilson's Phalarope** numbers were down, while **Red-necked Phalarope** numbers were comparable to last fall's exceptional totals.

Duluth produced one **Little Gull**; two more were found in mid-October at sewage lagoons in Cass. As it has in all recent years, a **Black-headed Gull** at Big Spirit Lake in Iowa wandered into Minnesota on several occasions. The only **California Gull** of the season was at Walker in Cass. The first **Iceland Gull** of the season appeared in Duluth in early November; at the end of the month, birders were watching both an adult and a first-cycle gull at Black Dog Lake in Dakota. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were first found at Black Dog in early September, and two more appeared later in the season in Minneapolis, but Duluth reported no fewer than seven individuals of different plumages! The eleventh(!) individual of this species for the season was a first county record for Stearns.

At least three and possibly four **Great Black-backed Gulls** were seen — all in Duluth Harbor or Lake Superior between Minnesota Point and Two Harbors. They ranged from a heavily molting adult found in early September on a lake "pelagic" trip to immatures present at the end of the season. **Sabine's Gulls** were documented from an unprecedented number of locations, including first county records

for Lyon, Meeker, and Yellow Medicine, and reports from eight additional counties between 3 September and 6 October.

An immature **Arctic Tern** made a cameo appearance at Park Point — fashionably later than usual. While the several September **Parasitic Jaegers** found near Duluth might have been expected, the adult **Long-tailed Jaeger** that spent 13 days foraging for grasshoppers near Agassiz N.W.R. was certainly not. Amazingly, this bird didn't even qualify as a first county record for Marshall due to a prior (summer!) record from 1898! Another jaeger reported from Lake of the Woods was cautiously left unidentified.

This fall proved to be excellent for doves. **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continued their expansion, and were reported from 19 counties, including two locations from the northern half of the state. Two different **White-winged Doves** in Otter Tail and Lake were the third and fourth fall records for the state. Besting all of them was a very cooperative first state record **Inca Dove**, which spent the entire month of November in Two Harbors.

A few **Snowy Owls** started showing up towards the end of the season, but **Northern Hawk Owls** and **Great Gray Owls** were scarce. No **Burrowing Owls** had been documented as breeding in the state since 1991, but one pair's summer success in Polk was apparently matched by another pair discovered this season in Pipestone.

For the second consecutive fall, good numbers of **American Three-toed** and **Black-backed Woodpeckers** were seen along the North Shore of Lake Superior.

Two **Say's Phoebes**, found in Sherburne and St. Louis, were each photographed. **Carolina Wrens** were seen in five counties. Noteworthy was the **Philadelphia Vireo** found in Jackson — the only county in the state in which it had not been recorded. Each of the counties along Lake Superior produced at least one **Mountain Bluebird**. **Townsend's Solitaire** numbers were less than half the 39 found in fall 2006. Two **Varied Thrushes** were discovered in the Arrowhead during

the last three days of the season.

The most notable warblers were two Audubon's race of **Yellow-rumped**. What was missing for the season in variety was made up for in quantity. Late August produced several 22- and 24-species days, and record high fall counts were tallied for **Nashville Warbler**, **Cape May Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, **Mourning Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler**. Away from the Northeast region, the only **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were five individuals found near the Twin Cities.

For the third consecutive fall, a **Summer Tanager** was found along the North Shore, this year at Stoney Point. Finally, the most unusual passerine of the season was a seventh state record **Black-throated Sparrow** found and photographed along the southwest shoreline of Lake Winnibigoshish.

Weather summary: The season began with the Northeast and most of the southern half of the state classified as being in Severe Drought. The remainder of the state, aside from the Northwest, was classified as experiencing either Moderate Drought or being Abnormally Dry. In contrast, August brought about twice the expected average rainfall to the southern third of the state; the northern third, however, received only half of normal levels. The most significant rainfall occurred 18–20 August, when much of the Southeast received 6 inches, some areas received 8 to 18 inches, and significant flooding occurred in Fillmore, Houston, and Winona counties.

Most counties experienced well above-average rainfall totals in September, effectively ameliorating the drought conditions in the state. The Arrowhead received significant rainfall during a strong weather system that passed through on 6 September. Mean temperatures for the month were two to four degrees above average across much of the state. A strong cold snap on 15 September brought temperatures into the 20s (F) in many counties, essentially ending the growing (and mosquito) seasons.

Rainfall in October was again well

above-average. Statewide, it was the third wettest October on record. The most significant storm of the month moved through the Northeast 18–19 October, bringing gale force winds and heavy rains. For the month, mean temperatures were 4 to 6 degrees above average throughout the state.

The rains essentially stopped in November, as few areas experienced more than an inch in total, and almost all regions were one to two inches below historical average. Temperatures, on the other hand, were two to four degrees (F) above average. There were no major storms during the month, though at the end of the season nearly every county received some snow on 1 December, and some areas received over 12 inches.

Undocumented reports: **Harlequin Duck** 10/22 Beltrami; **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE** 10/21 Cook (Grand Portage W.T.P.); **Red-throated Loon** 11/3 Crow Wing (Mille Lacs Lake at Garrison); **IBIS sp.** 8/29 Swift (3), 9/3 Big Stone (5), 9/10 Lac Qui Parle (Perry Township), 9/28 Jackson (Sioux Valley Township); **Broad-winged Hawk** 10/31 Hennepin (3), 11/2 Wright; **Upland Sandpiper** 10/18 Meeker; **SABINE'S GULL** 9/28 St.

Louis (7); **Loggerhead Shrike** 10/29 Dakota; **House Wren** 11/12 Ramsey.

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KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Species are listed in brackets [**Whooping Crane**] when there is a reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
3. Bracketed text following a species' name indicates the total number of north and south counties.
4. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
5. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
6. Counties with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
7. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
8. Counts listed in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
9. Dagger "+" preceding observer's initials denotes documentation was submitted.
10. Species documented with a photograph are denoted with "ph".
11. Species documented with digital or video tape are denoted with "v.t."

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor, contact the Editor of the Seasonal Report, Paul E. Budde, 4612 Colfax Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55419, or via e-mail at paul.budde@benfieldgroup.com.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK

(*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) — [1 South] Ninth state record 10/28–30 **Hennepin** (Anderson Lakes Park) JPi, ph. JRa, †CMB, ph. †JPM, ph. NLo, m.ob.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) — [4 North, 7 South] All north reports: 10/17 Marshall (24 at Agassiz N.W.R.) GT, 10/20 Pennington JMJ, 10/21 Clay (13) DWR, 10/26 Douglas PEJ. Early south 10/15–16 Hennepin ADS, m.ob., 10/27 Meeker DMF. Late south 11/26 Waseca JPS, 11/28 Yellow Medicine PME, but also see winter report.

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) — [11 North, 18 South] Early north 9/5 St. Louis KJB, 9/7 Kanabec RBW, 9/9 Polk PHS. Early south 9/12 Fillmore NBO, 9/15 Chipewewa DWK. Late north 10/14 Marshall PHS, JMJ, 11/10 Clay JWH. Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) — [3 North, 3 South] All north reports: 9/17–27 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) GT, 9/24 St. Louis (Virginia) †DBF, †SLF, 9/28 St. Louis (H.R.B.O., Duluth) KJB, 10/13–19 Lake (Two Harbors) †JWL, JCG, †PHS. All south reports: 11/7 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 11/14 Lac Qui Parle (Perry Twp.) BJU, 11/26–30 Waseca (Loon L.) †JPS, DAB, 11/30 Steele (L. Kohlmeier) DAB. Also see winter report.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) — [19 North, 20 South] Documented in three north counties and seven south counties. Early north 9/13 Lake JCG, 9/14 St. Louis ABL; also 10/1 Cass (Walker City Park) ph. BAW. Early south 9/15 Waseca DAB, JJS, JWH, 9/16 McLeod JLO. Peak counts 10/30 Lac Qui Parle (**640** at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 11/27 Blue Earth (500) RMD, 9/28 St. Louis (262 at H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, 11/3 Rice (200–300 at Alexander Park) †DAB. Late north 11/12 Wadena JWH, 11/18 St. Louis †PHS. See winter report for late south migrants. New county records: 9/28 **Roseau** BJS, 11/11 **Kittson** JWH,



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 28 October 2007, Eden Prairie, Hennepin County. Photo by Jim Piffer.

11/12 **Wadena** JWH. Observers are asked to document all sightings with notes, photographs, or recordings to improve our understanding of this species in the state.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) — [35 North, 49 South] Reported throughout the state and the season.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) — [5 South] Probable wild bird seen 10/14–11/22 **Scott** (Minnesota Valley N.W.R., Louisville Swamp) †BAF. Birds of uncertain origin 8/13 Freeborn (Upper Twin L.) JWH, 9/14 Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R.) PLJ, 11/23 Meeker (L. Ripley) DMF, Rice TFB.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) — [21 North, 16 South] Peak counts 11/21 McLeod (80 at Eagle L.) DPG, 11/22 Goodhue (60 at Kenyon) NFT, 11/8 Isanti (52 at Lundgren L.) DPG.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) — [9 North, 19 South] Early north 9/27 Pennington JMJ, 10/14 Marshall PHS, JMJ. Early south 10/17 Houston NBO, 10/23 Lac

Qui Parle BJU. High counts 11/26 Houston (10,150 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., 11/21 Meeker (800 at L. Evenson) DMF. Late north 11/23 Hubbard PBB, 11/24 Mille Lacs JLO. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) — [29 North, 42 South] High counts 9/27 Houston (235 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., 8/19 Pine (190 at Sandstone W.T.P.) DWK. Late north 10/21 Koochiching, Lake of the Woods BJU, 10/22 Beltrami BJU, but also see winter report.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) — [18 North, 26 South] High counts 11/13 Houston (8,565 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., 10/14 Marshall (375 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS. Late north 11/10 Beltrami DPJ, 11/11 Mahanomen and Pennington JWH, Marshall *vide* MJM.

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) — [15 North, 25 South] High counts 10/29 Houston (2,275 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., 10/14 Marshall (1,150 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS. Late north 11/11 Mille Lacs RBW, 11/16 Cook JLO, DWK. Please see winter report for late south migrants.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) — [7 North, 15 South] All north reports: Cass, Clay, Cook, Hubbard, Lake, Pine, St. Louis. Early south 9/1 Sherburne JBB, 9/17 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) — [34 North, 46 South] Reported throughout the state. High count 11/13 Houston (11,560 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) — [29 North, 40 South] High counts 8/25 Pennington (175 at Thief River Falls W.T.P.) PHS, 8/24 Marshall (155 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS. Late north 10/20 Becker HHD, Cass,

Hubbard, and Todd BJU, 10/21 Cook RPR. Late south 11/7 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/16 Dakota DKO.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) — [20 North, 38 South] High counts 8/25 Pennington (625 at Thief River Falls W.T.P.) PHS, 10/11 Sherburne (250) ASC. Late north 11/10 Clay JWH, 11/11 Pennington JWH. Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) — [20 North, 24 South] Late north 11/2 Aitkin PEJ, 11/16 Cook JLO, DWK. Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) — [18 North, 25 South] High counts 11/4 Hennepin (425 at Long Meadow L.) BAF, 10/11 Lac Qui Parle (400) BJU. Late north 11/1 Aitkin PEJ, 11/2 Lake HHD (median 11/11), but also see winter report.

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) — [13 North, 27 South] High count 11/8 Houston (88,600 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/3 Todd MSK, 11/11 Pennington JWH (median 11/25). Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Redhead (*Aythya americana*) — [18 North, 27 South] Late north 11/4 Cass ALB, St. Louis PHS, 11/11 Mille Lacs RBW, Pennington and Polk JWH. Please see winter report for late south migrants and overwintering birds.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) — [29 North, 32 South] High count 11/8 Houston (6,825 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R. Late north 11/22 Hubbard PBB, 11/25 St. Louis SLF (median 12/8).

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) — [6 North, 10 South] Early north (median 10/5) **8/25** St. Louis (Duluth) KJB, 9/15 Cass

ALB. Early south (median 10/21) **8/24** Brown (Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) †BTS, 10/16 Meeker DMF. High count 10/17 St. Louis (**263** in Duluth harbor) PHS. Late north 11/11 Pennington JWH, 11/29 Cass RBW, but also see winter report.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) — [15 North, 23 South] Late north 11/11 Pennington JWH, 11/18 St. Louis PHS, but also see winter report. More than 3,000 found dead on L. Winnibigoshish in early November, possibly due to exotic snails infested with trematodes (Minnesota D.N.R.).

KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*) — [1 North] Sixteenth state record and first for **Cass**, found on Leech L. on 11/28 (ph. †BAW, DAY).

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) — [1 North] Only documented report: 10/5 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) †PHS.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) — [7 North, 4 South] All Lake Superior reports: 9/29–11/9 St. Louis (Duluth harbor) PHS, m.ob., including **21** (record high fall count) 10/8 KJB, 10/14 Cook (4 at Taconite Harbor) SLF, JWH, 10/27–11/17 Cook (Grand Marais harbor) m.ob. Seven north reports away from Lake Superior: 10/11 St. Louis (2 on Crane L.) DMK, 10/13 Wilkin (Breckenridge W.T.P.) KRE, m.ob., 10/14–15 Cass (1 on Leech L.) DAY, ALB, 10/14–20 Todd (max. 6 on L. Osakis) BWF, m.ob., 10/20 Cass (8 on L. Winnibigoshish) BJU, 11/10 Beltrami (1 on L. Bemidji) DPJ, 11/11 **Kittson** (Twin Lakes W.M.A. area) BWF, JWH, DBz. All south reports: 10/11 Lac Qui Parle (1 at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 10/16–11/25 Meeker (1 on L. Ripley) DMF, 11/12 Houston (1 at Reno bottoms, Mississippi R.) PEJ, DFN, 11/12–13 Ramsey (1 on Bald Eagle L.) CRM, m.ob.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) — [4 North, 5 South] All Lake Superior reports: 10/5 Cook (1 at Good Harbor Bay) JPE, 10/6–11/17 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) KRE, m.ob., including **72** (record

high fall count) 10/21 †PHS, 10/14 Cook (4 at Taconite Harbor) SLF, JWH, 10/27–11/17 Cook (max. 5 at Paradise Beach) BAF, m.ob. Two north reports away from Lake Superior: 10/20–27 Mille Lacs (3 on Mille Lacs L.) ASC, 11/10–12 Beltrami (L. Bemidji) DPJ. All south reports: 11/7 Lac Qui Parle (2 at Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 11/10 Meeker (L. Washington) DMF, 11/12–13 Swift (1 at Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.) BJU, 11/17–27 Wabasha (4 on L. Pepin) BAF, m.ob., 11/23 Mower (1 at Austin) JEM.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) — [6 North, 1 South] All Lake Superior reports: 9/22–11/12 St. Louis (max. 5 at Park Point, Duluth) SLF, KJB, m.ob., 10/5 Cook (1 at Five Mile Rock) JPE, 10/27 Cook (2 at Taconite Harbor) KRE, m.ob., 11/4–6 Cook (1 at Hovland) KRE, m.ob. Four north reports away from Lake Superior: 10/14 Todd (2 on L. Osakis) BWF, 10/20 Cass (1 on Leech L.) BJU, 10/21 Aitkin (**58** on Mille Lacs L.) AXH, 11/11–22 Beltrami (1 on L. Bemidji) DPJ. All south reports: 10/27 Meeker (4 on L. Ripley) DMF, 11/3 Meeker (East L. Ripley) DMF, 11/9 Stearns (2 on Pelican L.) MJB, 11/26 Wabasha (3 on L. Pepin) DBz.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) — [4 North, 3 South] All north reports: 10/13–20 Cass (2 on Leech L.) †ALB, BJU, 10/16 **Todd** (L. Osakis) JSK, 10/17–11/9 St. Louis (max. 2 at Park Point, Duluth.) PHS, KRE, m.ob., BJU, 10/27 Cook (8 at Good Harbor Bay) *fide* JWJL, 10/27–11/13 Cook (2 at Taconite Harbor) m.ob., 11/2–17 Cook (max. 10 between Hovland and Paradise Beach) DWK, m.ob. All south reports: 11/7 Big Stone (5 on Big Stone L.) BJU, 11/16 Meeker (1 on L. Ripley) DMF, 11/27 Wabasha (1 on Mississippi R.) *fide* DBz.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) — [19 North, 23 South] Early south 10/1 Wright DPG, 10/2 Chippewa RBJ. Peak counts 11/8 Houston (1,270 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., 10/22 Beltrami (583 on Lower Red L.) BJU.

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) — [16 North, 19 South] Early south 10/3 Yellow Medicine BJU, 10/13 Meeker DMF. Peak counts 11/26 Houston (1,555 at Pool #8, includes birds in Wisconsin) Upper Mississippi River N.W.F.R., 11/17 St. Louis (340 in Duluth harbor) PHS.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*) — [1 North] Male in eclipse plumage 10/6–7 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) †KRE, ph. JWL, †MLH, ph. †PHS.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) — [25 North, 27 South] Late north 11/23 Hubbard PBB, 11/24 Mille Lacs JLO, St. Louis LS, but also see winter report.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) — [14 North, 16 South] Early south 10/13 Kandiyohi DPG, 10/29 Sherburne PLJ.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) — [6 North, 5 South] All north reports: Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Lake, Lake of the Woods, and St. Louis. All south reports: 11/7 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 11/9–18 Houston PEJ, DFN, BAF, 11/10 Meeker DMF, 11/11 Blue Earth RMD, 11/25 Dakota (5) JCC.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) — [14 North, 37 South] High counts 10/13 Lac Qui Parle (810 on Salt L.) PHS, 9/26 Traverse (352 on St. Mary's L.) BJU. Late north 10/26 Todd RBW, 11/11 Pennington JWH. Late south 11/25 Martin HHD, 11/26 Waseca JPS. Also please see winter report.

Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) — [3 North, 10 South] All north reports: 8/31 Red Lake (3 in L. Pleasant Twp.) BJU, 9/3 Traverse (1 in Croke Twp.) BJU, 11/10–11 Kittson *vide* JMJ. High counts south 8/24 Lac Qui Parle (17 near Louisburg) BJU, 10/12 Cottonwood (12 at Red Rock Prairie) JCC, 8/5 Olmsted (11) JWH. Also reported from Dakota (3), Meeker (2), Pipestone (3), Renville (3), Steele, Stevens, and Yellow Medicine.

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) — [12 North, 44 South] Reported as far north as Mahnomen in the Northwest, Wadena and Cass in the North-central, and Kanabec and Pine in the East-central region.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) — [18 North, 8 South] All southeast reports: 9/5, 10/15 Fillmore NBO, 8/26 Goodhue (Miesville Ravine) SWE, 9/12 Wabasha JWH, 11/24 Winona HHD.

Spruce Grouse (*Falcipennis canadensis*) — [5 North] Reported from Beltrami BJU, Cook JLO, Koochiching (4) BJU, Lake (5 in four locations) SES, JCC, BET, St. Louis (2 in two locations) SES, DMK.

Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) — [6 North, 2 South] All north reports: Beltrami (1 at Big Bog S.R.A.) BJU, Kittson (5) RBW, Lake of the Woods (2) BJU, Marshall (1 at Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ, Polk (6 at Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) BJU. South reports 8/6 Big Stone BJU, 8/22 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 9/8 Lac Qui Parle (Walter Twp.) BJU.

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) — [4 North, 1 South] All north reports: 11/10 Clay (18 at Felton Prairie) JWH, 10/12 Norman LBF, 8/31 Polk (2 at Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) BJU, 10/14 Wilkin (43 at Rothsay W.M.A.) JCC. Only south report 11/18 Lac Qui Parle (near Louisburg.) BJU, presumably related to D.N.R. releases at Plover Prairie.

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) — [10 North, 31 South] Reported as far north as Kittson and Pennington in the Northwest, Wadena and Cass in the North-central, and Mille Lacs and Pine (max. 85, JMP) in the East-central. Some north reports probably refer to recently released birds.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) — [2 North] All reports: **8/23–26** (record early) St. Louis (ad. in alternate plumage at Park Point) KJB, †PHS, †JWL, m.ob., 9/27–10/21 St. Louis (max. 3 at Park Point) KJB, †SLF,

m.ob.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) — [1 North, 2 South] Only Lake Superior report: 10/7–20 St. Louis (ad. at Park Point) KRE, †PHS, m.ob. Inland reports: 10/14 Meeker (juv. on L. Ripley) †DMF, 10/27–30 **Stearns** (juv. on Pearl L.) †PCC, m.ob.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) — [20 North, 13 South] High counts 10/22 Beltrami (460 on Lower Red L.) BJU, 10/21 Aitkin (110 on Mille Lacs L.) AXH. Late north 11/18 St. Louis PHS, 11/23 Hubbard PBB, Mille Lacs ASc. Late south 11/22 Hennepin PEB, 11/25 Carver DWK.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) — [29 North, 43 South] High count 10/11 Big Stone (93 on Big Stone L.) BJU. Late north 11/10 St. Louis PEB, 11/11 Beltrami DPJ. Late south 11/19 Olmsted JWH, 11/25 Hennepin PEB, but also see winter report.

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) — [17 North, 19 South] Early north **8/6** Cook JPE, 8/12 St. Louis FKB (median 8/19). Early south reports included an adult in basic plumage first reported in Big Stone in late July, still present 8/22 (BJU), and then 9/8 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 11/12 Cook SLF, 11/18 Lake JWJ. Late south 11/12 Houston PEJ, DFN, 11/16 Blue Earth RMD, but also see winter report.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grise-gena*) — [14 North, 9 South] High counts 10/7 St. Louis (51) KJB, 10/21 Aitkin (25) AXH. Late north 11/11 St. Louis SLF, 11/23 Lake JWJ, but also see winter report. Late south 10/23 Blue Earth RMD, 11/25 Meeker DMF (median 11/10).

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) — [9 North, 10 South] Late north 9/26 Traverse BJU, 11/3 Todd MSK (median 10/22). Late south 10/4 Lincoln BJU, 10/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) — [7 North, 15 South] Unusual location 8/23 St. Louis (2 at Park Point, Du-

luth) KJB. Late north 10/22 Beltrami BJU, 11/3 Todd MSK. Late south 11/16 Blue Earth RMD, 11/24 Waseca HDD.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) — No reports.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) — [17 North, 38 South] High counts 9/11 Ramsey (426 at Pig's Eye Island) RBJ, 10/9 Blue Earth (400) CHH, 9/26 Lake (105 at Two Harbors) JWJ, KRE. Late north 10/14 Marshall JMJ, Wilkin JCC, 10/20 Grant JLO, DWK. Late south 11/25 Houston NBO, 11/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU, but also see winter report.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) — [27 North, 42 South] High counts 10/20 Ramsey (310 at Pig's Eye Island) RBJ, 8/3 Cass (300 at Pelican Island, Leech L.) BAW. Late north 11/4 Cook KRE, m.ob., 11/17 Otter Tail DTT. Late south 11/24 Rice DAB, 11/25 Houston NBO, Meeker DMF, but also see winter report.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata magnificens*) — [1 South] An adult female photographed 9/2 in Jackson (Spirit L., ph. †SJD, ph. †JGi, †ETH) was the first confirmed record of this species in Minnesota (**The Loon** 80:106–107), following three prior records of the *Fregata* genus: 2 individuals in 1988 and another in 2005.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) — [7 North, 6 South] Late north 9/17 Marshall *vide* JMJ, 9/19 St. Louis SLF (median 10/10). Late south 9/29 Le Sueur DAB, RMD, JWH, 10/1 Houston RBW (median 10/15).

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) — [2 North, 4 South] All reports: 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (Caerulean W.M.A.) BJU, 8/5 Meeker (Minnesota L.) DMF, 8/11 Jackson (Spirit L.) CH, JWH, JCC, LS, 8/31 Blue Earth AXH, Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) BJU, 9/3 Itasca LS, Jackson (Spirit L.) PHS, JWH.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) —

[31 North, 46 South] Late north 10/21 Aitkin AXH and Wadena PJB, 11/24 Crow Wing JLO.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) — [23 North, 38 South] Several reports north of normal range in the North-central and Northwest regions between August and early October. Two northeast reports: 9/16 St. Louis (near Boulder L.) DAG, 9/22 St. Louis MCA. Late north 10/14 Traverse JCC, 10/20 Becker HHD, Grant and Otter Tail DWK. Late south 11/4 Hennepin BAF, 11/10 Meeker DMF.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) — [3 South] All reports: 8/17–20 Lac Qui Parle (Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.) BJU, 8/27 **Benton** and Stearns (Mississippi R. in Sartell) HHD, 9/16 Lac Qui Parle (2 at Big Stone N.W.R.) PCC, 10/11 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) — [2 South] Only reports: 8/15 Scott (ad. at Fisher L.) RMD, 8/24 Swift (ad. at Lac Qui Parle W.M.A.) BJU.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) — [1 North, 4 South] All reports: 8/3 Meeker (Ellsworth Twp.) DMF, 8/7 Pipestone (Eden Twp.) BJU, 9/18 Lac Qui Parle (2 in Agassiz Twp.) BJU, 9/19 Anoka (near Elk River) CKB, 10/30 Lake (6 near Split Rock R.) *vide* JWL.

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) — [21 North, 27 South] High count 8/4 Sherburne (12) ASc. Late north 10/2 Cass BAW, 10/3 Todd MSK. Late south 10/4 Faribault RBW and Le Sueur RMD, 10/8 Hennepin DWK.

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) — [3 North, 13 South] All north: 8/3 Otter Tail (Fergus Falls) DTT, 8/31–9/8 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) BJU, JMJ, 10/6 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) SWe. Late south 9/30 Yellow Medicine LS, 10/27 Hennepin HCT.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) — [1 South] Only docu-

mented report: 9/17–10/6 Hennepin (L. Hiawatha) †DDO, ph. †BAF, †DWK, †CMB, ph. †PEB, m.ob.

IBIS sp. (*Plegadis* sp.)— [3 South] All documented reports of unidentified *Plegadis*: 8/11 Big Stone (Toqua Twp.) †PHS, 8/25–9/9 Big Stone (max. 6 at Toqua Twp.) †PCC, 9/30–10/2 Lyon (2 juv. at Black Rush L.) †KRE, RBJ, m.ob., 10/26–11/1 Houston (Wildcat Landing) †FZL, JWH, NBO, 11/1 Brown (Albin Twp) †BTS. Also see undocumented reports.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) — [22 North, 43 South] Peak count 10/4 St. Louis (188 at H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB. Late north 10/10 Lake JWL, 10/24 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB. Late south 10/21 Chisago MHe and Fillmore NBO, 11/10 Swift BJU, but also see winter report.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) — [20 North, 23 South] Peak count 9/6 St. Louis (18 at H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB. Late north 10/24 St. Louis BCM, 11/4 Pine RMD. Late south 10/31 Dakota JPM, 11/4 Olmsted JWH.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) — [33 North, 44 South] High counts 11/3 St. Louis (206 at H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, 11/18 Houston (195 at Pool 8 of Mississippi R.; includes birds in WI) BAF.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) — [33 North, 37 South] Peak number 52 on 9/14 at H.R.B.O. in St. Louis. Late north 11/14 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, 11/24 Aitkin and Kanabec DPG.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) — [20 North, 34 South] Record early south (neither with details) **8/4** Brown BTS and **8/5** Anoka DPG (median 8/15). High count 10/3 St. Louis (1,502 at H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB. Late north 11/4 Cook LS, 11/25 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, but also see winter report.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) — [21 North, 35 South] High count 9/22 St. Louis (13 at H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB. Late

Table 1. Raptors recorded at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Duluth, fall 2007.

Species	2007 total	1991–2006 average	2007 deviation from average	First date	Last date	Peak day	Peak number
Turkey Vulture	1,433	1,420	1%	16 Aug	24 Oct	4 Oct	188
Osprey	221	412	-46%	18 Aug	14 Oct	6 Sep	18
Bald Eagle	3,336	2,836	18%	16 Aug	30 Nov	3 Nov	206
Northern Harrier	723	677	7%	15 Aug	14 Nov	14 Sep	52
Sharp-shinned Hawk	16,023	17,627	-9%	15 Aug	25 Nov	3 Oct	1,502
Cooper's Hawk	116	202	-43%	25 Aug	31 Oct	22 Sep	13
Northern Goshawk	200	765	-74%	26 Aug	27 Nov	10 Oct	20
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	4	-100%	—	—	—	—
Broad-winged Hawk	31,284	54,341	-42%	15 Aug	13 Oct	14 Sep	8,983
Swainson's Hawk	5	7	-25%	14 Sep	27 Sep	—	1
Red-tailed Hawk	6,077	9,045	-33%	15 Aug	29 Nov	13 Oct	835
Rough-legged Hawk	591	516	15%	12 Oct	30 Nov	11 Nov	83
Golden Eagle	127	119	7%	19 Sep	29 Nov	15 Nov	19
American Kestrel	1,673	2,170	-23%	23 Aug	4 Nov	22 Sep	205
Merlin	226	293	-23%	22 Aug	30 Nov	9 Oct	18
Peregrine Falcon	89	65	37%	18 Aug	26 Oct	28 Sep	11
TOTALS	62,124	90,499	-31%	15 Aug	30 Nov	14 Sep	9,914

north 10/21 Morrison CAM, 10/31 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, but also see winter report.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) — [6 North, 2 South] All north reports: Cass, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, St. Louis, Todd. Seasonal total of 200 from H.R.B.O. well below average of 765. All south reports: 11/19 Olmsted JLO, JWH, 11/30 Sherburne Asc.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) — [6 North, 12 South] All north reports: 8/1–10/3 Mille Lacs Asc, 8/1–10/21 Otter Tail DTT, JMJ, DWR, 8/24 Beltrami DFN, 9/17–27 Cass BAW, 9/29 Becker DFN, 10/9 Todd MSK.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) — [15 North, 27 South] High counts 9/14 St. Louis (8,983 at H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, 9/15 Lake (221 at Wilson L., away from Lake Superior.) AXH. Late north 10/6 Pine MHe, 10/13 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB. Late south 10/1 Hennepin PEB, 10/13 Scott LEC.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) — [2 North, 15 South] Only north reports: 8/6 Traverse BJU, 9/14–27 St. Louis (total of 5 at H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB. Late south 10/12 Dakota RLW, JWo, 10/13 Kandiyohi DPG.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) — [33 North, 51 South] Peak count 10/13 St. Louis (835 at H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) — No reports.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) — [22 North, 15 South] Early north 10/12 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, 10/20 Becker HHD and Cass BJU. Early south 10/4 Lincoln BJU, 10/18 Swift BJU.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) — [3 North, 5 South] All north reports: 9/5 Kanabec CAM, 9/15 Lake (2 at Wilson L. in east-central Lake County, away from Lake Superior) AXH, 10/13 St. Louis ABL, 10/22 St. Louis (2 juveniles at H.R.B.O.) PHS, 10/27 Lake LS, KRE, JCC, 11/4 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) LS. All south reports: 10/4 Lincoln (adult at L. Benton) BJU, 10/13 Kandiyohi DPG, 11/14 Meeker DMF, 11/28 Lac Qui Parle (adult in Perry Twp.) BJU, 11/29 Waseca JJS. No significant counts.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) — [27 North, 46 South] Last reported north 11/13 St. Louis JCC, 11/24 Kanabec DPG. Observed south throughout the season.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) — [19 North, 20 South] Juvenile seen 8/7 near L. Hia-



American Golden-Plover, 14 September 2007, Taconite Harbor, Cook County. Photo by Earl Orf.

watha in Minneapolis (Hennepin County) where probable breeding occurred (BAF, HCT). Early south (median 8/21) 8/22 Brown BTS. Late north 11/10 Beltrami DPJ and Lake PEB, 11/17 St. Louis (Park Point) LAV, but also see winter report.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) — [5 North, 19 South] Last reported north 11/5 Lake CRM, 11/10 St. Louis PEB, but see winter report. Observed south throughout the season.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) — [1 North, 1 South] Two reports: 9/16 **Stearns** (near Greenwald) †JPE, 10/20 Clay (near Buffalo River S.P.) PBB.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) — No reports.

Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) — [11 North, 8 South] Last north report 9/15 Cass ALB, 9/17 Lake (Little Marais) EEO (median 9/10). Last reported south 9/24 Ramsey JBB, 9/28 Jackson BJU (median 10/7).

Sora (*Porzana carolina*) — [16 North,

20 South] High count 9/5 St. Louis (18, Pike River near Biwabik) SLF. Late north 9/15 Cass ALB, 9/25 Lake (3, Two Harbors high school ponds) JWL. Late south 10/6 Hennepin (3) BAF, HCT, 10/13 Dakota PEJ (median 10/11).

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) — [1 South] At least one bird from summer at Moonan Marsh in Waseca County last reported 8/4 RMD, 8/19 JWH.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) — [27 North, 40 South] High counts 10/13 Kandiyohi (11,000) DPG, 11/4 Hennepin (6,000, Long Meadow L.) BAF. Last reported north 11/12 Becker JWH, 11/23 Hubbard PBB. Reported south throughout the season.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) — [24 North, 16 South] High counts 10/6 Kittson (1,000) LW, 9/17 Marshall (500) GT. Late north 11/17 Mille Lacs ASc, 11/24 Pennington JMJ (median 11/4). Late south 11/4 Lac Qui Parle (Walter Twp.) BJU, 11/21 Mower JEM (median 11/4).

Black-bellied Plover (*Phuialis squatarola*) — [11 North, 17 South] Early north 8/3 Marshall PHS, JMJ. Early south 8/4 Lac Qui Parle PCC, RSF, PHS, 8/5 Jackson KJB. First juveniles 9/8 Marshall (2) PHS. Late north 10/30–11/4 St. Louis (3, Park Point ballfields, Duluth) m.ob. Late south 10/31, 11/5 Dakota (2 in basic plumage) JPM. High counts 10/8 St. Louis (21 at Park Point, Duluth) KJB, 9/23 St. Louis (20 total from Park Point, Hearing Island, Interstate Island, Miller Creek, 40th Ave. West, and Morgan Park) PHS.

American Golden-Plover (*Phuialis dominica*) — [8 North, 25 South] Early north 8/6 Traverse BJU, then no reports until 8/18 Marshall PHS, JMJ and St. Louis JCC. Early south 8/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU. First juveniles 9/8 Marshall (3) PHS. High counts 10/13 Martin (160) RMD and Yellow Medicine (100) PHS, PCC. Late north 10/25 St. Louis DAB, 11/5 Marshall GKn. Late south 10/18 Cottonwood (50) LS, 11/18 Scott (3, Belle Plaine W.T.P.) RBW.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) — [11 North, 24 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. First juveniles 8/11 Marshall (1) PCC, 8/12 Jackson (1) KJB. Late north 9/26 Cass (Pelican Island, Leech L.) BAW, 10/14 Marshall (5) PHS, JMJ. Late south 10/13 Kandiyohi DPG, Yellow Medicine (2) and Big Stone PHS, PCC. High counts 8/11 Marshall (99, Agassiz N.W.R.) PCC, JMJ, 8/18 Marshall (57, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) — [27 North, 45 South] Late north 9/23 Wadena PJB and St. Louis (5) PHS, then none until 10/20 Becker HHD. Late south 11/10 Meeker DMF, 11/11 Stearns HHD. High counts 9/2 Lac Qui Parle (408) PCC, 9/3 Traverse (260, section 19, Croke Twp.) BJU.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) — [1 North, 3 South] First county record: 8/12 **Sherburne** (Big L.) ph. SWo. High counts **24** on 8/17 in Big Stone (Toqua Twp., PHS) and 19 on 9/3 in Traverse (Croke Twp., BJU). Only other report away from the west regions: 8/13 Freeborn (Geneva L.) JWH. Late south 9/22 Lac Qui Parle (2 at Salt L.) PCC.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) — [22 North, 31 South] Late north 9/28 Itasca *vide* JMJ, 9/30 St. Louis KJB, then none until 10/26–27 Cook DAB, MHe, JEB. High count 8/12 Lac Qui Parle (49) PCC, RSF, PHS. Late south 10/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/13 Big Stone PHS, PCC.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) — [22 North, 29 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. Late north 9/29 Becker DFN, 10/3 St. Louis SLF, then none until 11/7 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) GK. Late south 10/1 Houston RBW, 10/8 Le Sueur (5) RMD. High count 8/2 Scott (61) BAF.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) — [21 North, 31 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. Late

north 10/28 Polk RBW, 11/2–3 Aitkin PEJ, ASc. Late south 10/21 McLeod PRH, 10/24 Lac Qui Parle BJU. High counts 8/18 (**180**, record high for fall) and 8/11 (154) Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ.

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) — [2 North, 4 South] North reports 8/6 Traverse BJU, 8/11 Marshall JMJ, 8/18 Marshall (juvenile) PHS, JMJ, 8/31–9/1 Marshall PHS, JCC. All south reports: 8/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/3 Meeker (2) DMF, 8/24 Swift BJU, 9/10 Wright DMF; also reported from Big Stone and Jackson. No significant counts.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) — [21 North, 35 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. Late north 10/27 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) RBW and Pennington JMJ. Late south 10/21 Dakota BAF, 11/4 Hennepin HCT. High count 8/3 Marshall (1,676, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ, 8/5 Jackson (1,659 at South Heron L.) KJB.

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) — [3 North, 4 South] All north reports: 8/6 Traverse (2) BJU, 8/23 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, 8/25 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, St. Louis (location?) ABL, 8/31 Wilkin BJU. Late south 8/10 Jackson KJB, 8/11 Big Stone (2) PHS, RSF, 8/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) — [2 North, 1 South] Reported from Park Point, Duluth in St. Louis beginning 8/23 PHS; last reported there 10/19 KJB. Also reported 9/15 Lake (Castle Danger) *vide* JW. First county record 8/8 **Hennepin** (2 at Purgatory Creek in Eden Prairie) HCT, †DWK, m.ob.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) — [2 North, 2 South] All north reports: 8/24 Marshall (10, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, 8/31 Marshall (5) ASc, BJU, 9/4 Traverse (Section 19, Croke Twp.) BJU. All south reports: 8/14 Big Stone BJU, 8/23 Lac Qui Parle (2, Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) — [1 North, 4 South] All north reports from



Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 2 August 2007, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Shawn Zierman.

Marshall, where last seen 8/11 (3, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ. Late south 8/3 Meeker (3) DMF, 8/11 Big Stone (3) and Stevens (2) PHS, RSF.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) — [4 North, 4 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants north. All south reports: 8/18 Meeker (2) DMF, 8/22 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) BJU, 8/31 Stearns HHD, 9/29 Brown (Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS. First juveniles 8/25 St. Louis (2) KJB, 8/31 Stearns (1) PCC. Late north 9/23 St. Louis PHS, 9/30 St. Louis KJB. No significant counts.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) — [2 North, 1 South] All north reports: 8/29–9/15 St. Louis (2, Interstate Island, Duluth) KJB, m.ob., 9/1 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) KRE *et al.*, 9/22 St. Louis MCA. Reported south 8/25 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) PCC.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) — [9 North, 11 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants north. Early south 8/18 Meeker (3) DMF, 8/19 Freeborn JWH. First juveniles 8/25 St. Louis (1) KJB and Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC. Late north 10/20 St. Louis (8) PHS, 10/30 St. Louis (2) PHS, OWB. Late south 9/30 Sibley HHD, 10/3 Yellow Medicine BJU. High counts 9/24 St. Louis (85, Park Point, Duluth) KJB, 9/25 St. Louis (66, Hearing Island and Duluth Harbor) PHS.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) — [15 North, 25 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. High counts 8/6 Jackson (1,256 on South Heron L.) KJB, 8/31 Marshall (916, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS. Late north 9/23 St. Louis PHS, 10/14 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ. Late south 10/3 Sherburne ASc, 10/13 Yellow Medicine (2) PHS.

WESTERN SANDPIPER (*Calidris mauri*) — [1 South] Juvenile bird discovered 9/29 in Brown County at the Sleepy Eye W.T.P. (ph. †BTS). This bird remained through 9/30 and was described and photographed by many (†DAB, ph. †PEB,

†PCC, †RMD, ph. †KRE, †JPE, ph. †PHS). Sixth documented record in the state.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) — [19 North, 33 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. Late north 9/26 Traverse BJU, 10/14 Marshall (30, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ. Late south 10/13 Yellow Medicine (23), Lac Qui Parle (17), and Big Stone (4) PHS, PCC. High counts 8/11 Marshall (1,132 at Agassiz N.W.R.) JMJ, PCC, 8/18 Marshall (578, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) — [2 North, 4 South] All north reports: 8/24–31 Marshall †PHS, 9/3 Traverse (2) BJU. All south reports: 8/8 Hennepin SWe, 9/7–8 Sherburne ASc, 9/16 McLeod PRH, 9/22 Meeker DMF, 10/13 Lac Qui Parle PCC, PHS. No significant counts. **Note:** Undocumented reports of fall migrant White-rumped prior to mid-August are not published.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) — [14 North, 20 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. Late north 10/21 Lake of the Woods (4) BJU, 10/29 Clay (2) RBW. Late south 10/13 Yellow Medicine (3), Lac Qui Parle (10), and Big Stone PHS, PCC.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) — [17 North, 34 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. First juveniles 8/10 Jackson (1) KJB, 8/17 Stearns (1) PCC. High counts 8/5 Jackson (1,188 at South Heron L.) KJB. Late north 10/21 Lake of the Woods (17) BJU, 10/27 Pennington (4) JMJ. Late south 10/13 Yellow Medicine (55), Lac Qui Parle (12), and Big Stone (10) PHS, PCC, 10/17 McLeod PRH.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) — [6 North, 9 South] Early north 8/30 St. Louis (juvenile) ph. PHS. Early south 9/16 McLeod PRH, 9/17 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Late north 10/21 St. Louis (2) FKB, Lake of the Woods (6) BJU. Late south 10/13 Yellow Medicine (25, high count), Lac Qui Parle (3), and Big Stone (8) PHS, PCC.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris bimantopus*) — [12 North, 20 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. High count 9/16 Big Stone (391) PCC, 8/24 Marshall (345, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS. Late north 9/23 St. Louis PHS, 9/26 Traverse (2) BJU. Late south 10/13 Yellow Medicine (4) and Lac Qui Parle (4) PHS, PCC.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites sub-ruficollis*) — [6 North, 14 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. Early north 8/2 St. Louis (11, Park Point, Duluth) TPW, DAG, 8/3 Becker (4) PBB and Marshall (3, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ. Early south 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (4) BJU and Dakota (20) JPM. Late north 9/26 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) PHS. Late south 9/15 Chippewa (3, Shakopee L.) DWK, 9/20 Rice TFB. First county record: 8/3 **Sherburne** ASC. High count 9/1 Chisago (110, sod farm on Jeffrey Avenue, northeast of North Branch) MHe, 8/2 Dakota (72) MCA. Statewide total of 301 individuals from 20 counties was relatively low for the fifth consecutive year, when compared with totals of approx. 550 for 2001 and 2002.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) — [4 North, 11 South] See summer report for early southbound migrants. First juveniles 8/3 Marshall (3) PHS, 8/4 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, RSF, PHS. Late north 9/5 St. Louis (juvenile identified by voice and tertial pattern) PHS. Late south 9/28 Nobles (2, identified by call) HHD. No significant counts.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) — [4 North, 15 South] Early north 8/11 Marshall (1) PHS, JMJ, 8/24 Marshall (5, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS. Early south 9/2 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC, Nobles BTS, 9/3 Big Stone BJU. First juvenile 9/2 Lac Qui Parle (1) PCC. Late north 9/16 Marshall JMJ, 9/22 St. Louis MCA. Late south 10/13 Martin RMD, Lac Qui Parle (4) and Big Stone (6) PHS, PCC, 10/23 Cottonwood (7) JLO, DWK. No significant counts.

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) —

[21 North, 25 South] High count 10/30 Steele (50, Bixby) NFT. Late north 10/20 Todd and 10/22 Mahnomen BJU. Late south 11/12 Houston (41, Wildcat Landing) DFN, Lac Qui Parle BJU.

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) — [5 North, 6 South] Late north 10/23 St. Louis NAJ, 10/27 Clearwater *vide* JMJ. Late south 10/6 Anoka RBJ, 10/31 Rice DAB.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) — [4 North, 8 South] No reports from the northeast. High count 130 at Salt L. in Lac Qui Parle County on 8/4 (PCC, PHS). Statewide total only 389, far fewer than last year's fall total of 700. Late north 9/4 Traverse (10) BJU. Late south 9/22 Lac Qui Parle PCC.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) — [11 North, 12 South] Early north 8/3 Marshall (5, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, JMJ, 8/5 Marshall JMJ, then none until 8/17 Cass (2, Walker W.T.P.) DAY. Early south 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) BJU, 8/2 Hennepin (2, Purgatory Creek, Eden Prairie) DWK. Late north 9/26 Traverse (St. Mary's L.) BJU and Cass (Longville W.T.P.) BAW. Late south 9/23 Brown (3, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS, 9/24 Lac Qui Parle (9, Salt L.) BJU, 10/6 Yellow Medicine (1) PCC. High count 8/25 Pennington (**214**, Thief River Falls W.T.P.) PHS is second highest count for this species in Minnesota (220 were tallied at this same location 8/30/2002 by CRM, m.ob.). Also notable were 54 birds at Salt L. in Lac Qui Parle on 9/2 (PCC). Statewide total of 623 individuals in 23 counties.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) — [18 North, 36 South] High counts 8/8 Jackson (11,000, South Heron L.) KJB, 9/21 Jackson (3,500) DAB, 10/6 Carver (3,440, L. Waconia) WCM. Several unusual reports from Duluth in **St. Louis** between 8/18 and 9/26 (†PHS, m.ob.). Late north 10/21 Todd RBW and Becker JMJ, then **11/17** (ties second latest north) St. Louis DPG. Late south 10/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Wright DPG, 11/3 Kandiyohi DPG.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) — [2 North] All north reports: 9/23–28 St. Louis (winter-plumaged adult at Park Point and Superior Entry) †DRB, LBe, †JPE, 10/16 Cass (2 birds, one at Walker W.T.P. and another at Cass Lake W.T.P. which lingered to 10/20) ph. †BAW, BJU.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*) — [1 South] Observed at usual location at north end of Spirit L./Little Spirit L. along Minnesota/Iowa border in Jackson County beginning 8/10 †JPE, then 9/2 ph. †PHS, ph. †AXH, †PCC. Last observed there 10/12 JCC.

Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) — [26 North, 18 South] See summer report for early north and west-central observations. Early south 8/9 Goodhue (juvenile) BRL. High count of 950 found 10/21 on Mille Lacs L. in Crow Wing, Aitkin and Mille Lacs counties (AXH). Late north 11/23 Mille Lacs ASC, 11/24 Crow Wing JLO. Late south 11/22 Carver (L. Waconia) WCM, 11/25 Wabasha (3, L. Pepin) RBW.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) — [35 North, 44 South] Late north 11/23 St. Louis JCC, 11/24 Mille Lacs DPG. High counts 11/10 Isanti (2,500 in field southeast of S.R. 47 & 285th Ave.) DPG, 9/22 St. Louis (1,892 including Minnesota and Wisconsin sides of Superior Entry and Park Point, Duluth) PHS.

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*) — [1 North] First county record: 9/15–16 **Cass** (Walker City Park, second-cycle bird) ph. †BAW, †DAY, ph. ALB.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) — [17 North, 26 South] Early south 8/5 Goodhue LEC, 8/6 Big Stone (3rd-cycle in NW Prior Twp.) BJU (but also see summer report). High counts 10/10 St. Louis (**4,100** at Superior Entry, mostly in Minnesota) KJB, 9/22 St. Louis (2,529; total includes Minnesota and Wisconsin sides of Superior Entry and Park Point, Duluth) PHS.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) — [4

North, 3 South] North reports beginning 9/15 Crow Wing ASC, then 9/30 St. Louis (adult at Superior Entry) KJB, 10/5 St. Louis (adult at Superior Entry) KJB, 10/6 St. Louis SWe, 10/10 St. Louis (first-cycle at Superior Entry) KJB, 10/11 St. Louis (first-cycle at Duluth) KJB. South reports beginning 9/23 Hennepin HCT, 10/3 Hennepin (L. Calhoun) PEB, then throughout rest of season in Hennepin. Last reported north 11/24 St. Louis LS, but see winter report. High counts 10/17 St. Louis (6, four first-cycle and two adult at Duluth) KJB, 11/30 Dakota (4, three adult and one first-cycle at Black Dog L.) BAF. First county record 11/15 **Cass** (Walker City Park) DAY.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) — [1 North, 1 South] Only north reports from St. Louis: 11/8–17 (first-cycle, Duluth) ph. †KJB, DRB, LBe. Reported south only from Dakota 11/29 (heavily marked first-cycle at Black Dog L.) †JPM, 11/29–30 (adult *Kumlien's* at Black Dog L.) †BAF, †JPM.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) — [1 North, 3 South] A remarkable total of eleven individuals were found this season. Seven of these were in Duluth, St. Louis County, including adults 9/22 (DWK, JLO), 10/10 (ph. KJB), 10/11–17 (different adult, ph. KJB); second-cycle birds 9/12 (yellow legs, ph. KJB), 10/10 (pink legs, ph. KJB), 10/11 (third individual, KJB), and one or two birds 11/8–24 (KJB); first-cycle birds 10/5 †PHS and 11/10–17 †KJB, †PEB, ph. †KRE. No more than two individuals were ever seen together. At least one additional, distinguishable adult was also seen at the Superior landfill but was never reported from Minnesota. First reported south **9/5** Dakota (sub-adult in basic plumage) ADS, then 9/21 Hennepin (L. Calhoun) DDo and Dakota (adult in alternate plumage) ADS. High count south was also 2 (adults) on L. Calhoun in Hennepin on 11/21 PEB. Last reported south 11/29 Hennepin (L. Calhoun) JCC. First county record: 10/20 **Stearns** (bird molting into fourth basic plumage, Maine Prairie Twp., Pearl Lake; bird seen again on 10/27, 11/10, and 11/17



Sabine's Gull, 6 October 2007, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Steve Weston.

at same location) †PCC, HHD.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) — [2 North, 2 South] All north reports: 11/11 Cook (first-cycle at Grand Marais harbor) *vide* JWJ, 11/21 St. Louis (2 first-cycle at Canal Park, Duluth) PHS, 11/21 St. Louis (adult at 27th Ave. W in Duluth) KJB. All south reports: 11/22 Hennepin (first or second-cycle at L. Calhoun) PEB, 11/29 Dakota (adult) JPM, 11/30 Dakota (adult at Black Dog L.) BAF.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) — [2 North] Reports from St. Louis: 9/8 (adult seen on Lake Superior “pelagic” boat trip near Wisconsin Point) m.ob., 11/17 (first-cycle, Duluth harbor) ph. KRE, 11/18 (a second first-cycle gull at the mouth of Miller Creek, distinguishable from 11/17 bird in photographs taken) ph. PHS. At least one of these first-cycle gulls lingered until 11/25 m.ob. One report also from Lake where a second-cycle gull was seen in Two Harbors on 11/23 JWJ. Also see winter report.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*) — [3

North, 4 South] More reports than usual, especially from southwestern Minnesota. All north reports: 9/3 Marshall (first-cycle) †PBB, KCR; 9/21–22 St. Louis (up to 3 first-cycle birds at Park Point, Duluth) †KRE, †JWL, ASc, NSc; 9/26 Cass (dead first-cycle gull found at Gull Island, Leech L.) ph. †BAW, DAY; 9/28 St. Louis (1 first-cycle at Superior Entry) †JPE; 10/5–6 St. Louis (first-cycle at Canal Park and Park Point, Duluth) †LBe, ph. MLH, †PHS, ph. SWe. All south reports: 9/16 Lac Qui Parle (first-cycle in Agassiz Twp., Big Stone N.W.R.) †PCC; 9/22 Lac Qui Parle (2 first-cycle at Salt L.) †PCC; 9/28–10/2 **Lyon** (first-cycle at Cottonwood L.) ph. †KRE, m.ob.; 10/6 **Meeker** (first-cycle at L. Ripley) †DMF and Yellow Medicine (first-cycle in Omro Twp., Lanners Lake W.M.A.) †PCC.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) — [11 North, 14 South] Early north 8/3 Cass RPR, 8/14 Cass (12 at Pelican Island, Leech L.) ALB. Early south 8/14 Lac Qui Parle (2, Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 8/16 Dakota ADS. High count 8/31 Dakota (25) JPM. Late north 10/1 Cass (3 at Pelican Island/Gull Island, Leech L.) BAW, 10/6 St. Louis JWJ, SWe. Late south 9/10 Dakota (4, Black Dog L.) DWK, 9/11 Ramsey RBJ

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) — [12 North, 20 South] Late north 9/4 Traverse BJU, 9/6 Douglas HHD. Late south 9/17 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/21 Jackson (2) DAB. High count 8/8 Jackson (**440**, South Heron L.) KJB.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) — [8 North, 4 South] Late north 10/2 Crow Wing (Garrison) MRN, 10/6 Cass (3 at Bear Island, Leech L.) BAW and St. Louis HHD, JWJ. All south reports: 8/2 Sherburne PLJ, 8/19 Meeker (Belle L.) DMF, 9/8 Meeker (2, L. Ripley boat landing) DMF, 9/8 Chippewa (south end of Lac Qui Parle L.) BJU, 9/9 Lac Qui Parle (Wild Wings W.M.A.) BJU. High counts 8/3 Cass (120, Pelican Island) BAW, 8/29 St. Louis (115, Duluth) KJB.

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*) —

[1 North] Only report: **10/6** St. Louis (juvenile or sub-adult at Park Point, Duluth) †KRE, m.ob. This is the fifth year this species has been reported in the fall. All prior fall records have been since 2000, from Superior Entry or Park Point, and between 18 and 27 September.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) — [12 North, 12 South] High count 9/7 Big Stone (**56**, record fall count) WCM. Late north 9/16 St. Louis (adult in basic plumage at Superior Entry) PHS, 10/1 Cass (Pelican Island/Gull Island, Leech L.) BAW. Late south 10/4 Lincoln BJU, 10/14 McLeod PRH.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) — [1 North] All reports from St. Louis, beginning 9/4 (dark morph at Park Point, Duluth) DRB, then 9/14 (2 dark morph at Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 9/22 (juvenile) PHS, 9/30 (juvenile at Superior Entry) JCC, MLH.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) — [1 North] One adult bird found 8/21 Marshall (just southwest of Agassiz N.W.R.) v.t. †SSw stayed through 9/2 ph. †KRE, ph. †JMJ, ph. †PHS, ph. ALB, ph. DWR. Ninth state record.

Jaeger sp. — [2 North] One unidentified *Stercorarius* jaeger observed 9/3 over Springsteel Island in Roseau was possibly a Long-tailed (DiR, KRE). Another unidentified jaeger was seen 9/14 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) at the same time as two Parasitics PHS.

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) — [34 North, 49 South] Reported throughout the state.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) — [5 North, 14 South] Reported from north locations in Otter Tail (Perham), Traverse (Wheaton), and Wilkin (Breckenridge, second county record). First county records: 9/17–23 **Itasca** (2, Grand Rapids) ph. CMO, †SC, EEO, 11/9 **Polk** (2, Climax) *vide* JMJ. Reported from

south locations in Blue Earth (Mapleton), Brown (Comfrey and Hanska), Chippewa (Milan), Cottonwood (Comfrey), Dakota (Farmington), Goodhue (Bombay), Jackson (Heron L.), Lac Qui Parle (Madison), McLeod, Mower (Adams), Redwood (Morgan), Rock, Swift (Appleton), and Yellow Medicine (Clarkfield).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*) — [2 North] Two reports, both first county records: 10/15–21 **Otter Tail** (northeast of Elizabeth) MSa, ph. †DTT, †JMJ, m.ob., 11/20–21 **Lake** (Fernberg Trail) ph. *vide* BET.

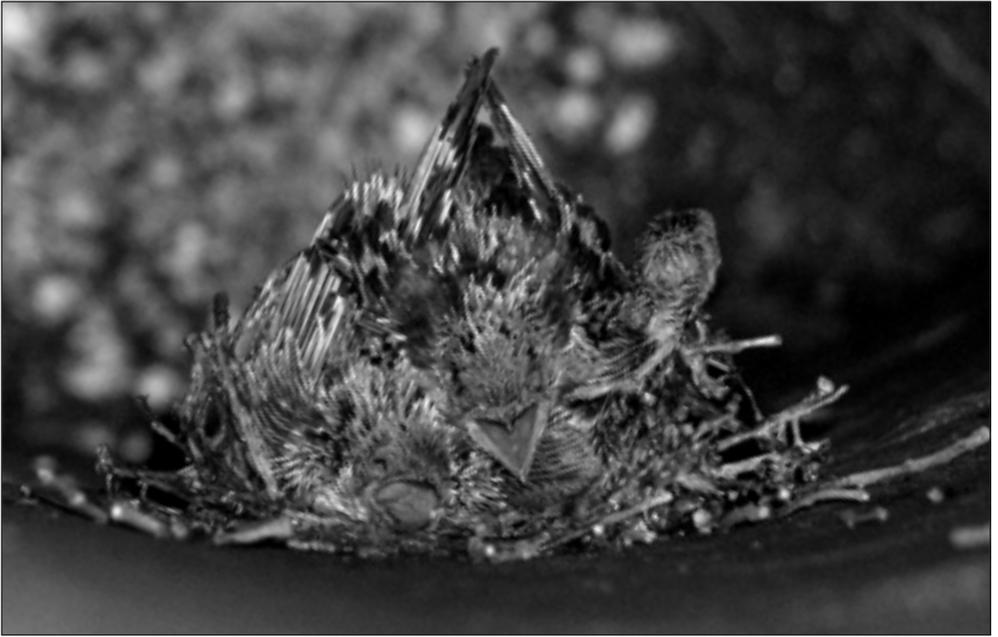
Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) — [33 North, 50 South] Reported throughout the state.

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*) — [1 North] A very cooperative adult and first state record was found in a residential backyard on 10/30 in Two Harbors, **Lake** ph. †JWL, ph. †AXH, †DAB, ph. †KRE, ph. MSS, †PCC, ph. †PHS, †WCM (**The Loon** 80:54–55). This bird remained into the winter season (12/5).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) — [2 North, 6 South] Only north reports: 9/23 Cook (Schroeder) DS_p, 10/27 St. Louis MLH. All south reports: 8/2 Fillmore NBO, 8/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/16 Rice DAB, 8/23 Carver JCC and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/26 Meeker DMF, 8/28 Hennepin OJL.

Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) — [7 North, 7 South] All north reports: 8/2 St. Louis TPW, 8/4 Todd CAM, 8/18 Pine HHD, 8/31 Pennington BJU, 9/1 Koochiching JLO, 9/10 St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) NAJ, 9/19 St. Louis (Duluth) JWL. All south reports: 8/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Meeker DMF, 8/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/22–23 Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/24 Swift BJU, 8/25 Hennepin HCT, 8/30 Scott JEB, 9/15 Hennepin HCT, 9/28 Jackson BJU.

Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*)



Chimney Swift nestlings, 9 August 2007, Circle Pines, Anoka County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

— [8 South] Reported from Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Lac Qui Parle, McLeod, Meeker, Rice, Swift. No north reports.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) — [20 North, 22 South] Reported throughout the state.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) — [5 North, 1 South] North reports beginning 11/10 Kittson (near Lancaster) LW, then 11/11 Kittson (near Orleans) LW, 11/14–15 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) MA, 11/16 Cook BRL, 11/19 Polk (near Climax) DLT, 11/26 Roseau (Roseau River W.M.A.) SWd. Only south report: 11/20 Ramsey (Tamarack N.C.) m.ob.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) — [1 North] All reports: 11/10 St. Louis (near Cotton) BKY, 11/29 St. Louis (S.R. 61/C.R. 42) *vide* JWL.

BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*) — [1 North, 1 South] One lingered in Clay from early July until 10/2 (see sum-

mer report for more details). A total of 4 birds (2 adults and 2 young, though only one adult and one juvenile documented) was discovered near probable nest site near Edgerton in Pipestone beginning 8/6 ph. DAC, ph. JeF, RBJ and subsequently seen by several observers through 8/18.

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) — [11 North, 12 South] Reported in all regions and as far southwest as Brown.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) — [1 North] Only report: 11/22 Lake BET.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) — [6 South] All reports: 11/9–10 Hennepin m.ob., 11/10 Ramsey AXH, 11/11 Rice TFB, 11/17 Blue Earth (3) RMD, 11/21 Meeker DMF, 11/22 Ramsey (different location than previously reported bird) AXH, 11/24 Rice DAB, 11/25 Carver (2, Carver Park Reserve) DWK. No north reports.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) — [8 North, 5 South] Reported from Aitkin,



Albinistic hummingbird, 23 August 2007, Warroad, Roseau County. Photo by Renee Colden.

Cass, Itasca, Marshall, Polk, Roseau, St. Louis, and Wilkin in the north and Anoka, Cottonwood, Dakota, Lac Qui Parle, and Meeker in the south. Total of 25 individuals reported.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) — [1 North] Only report: 11/10 **Douglas** (injured bird retrieved at Lake Carlos S.P.) *fide* JMJ.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) — [5 North, 4 South] Early north 8/9 Pine JMP, 8/18–19 St. Louis (juvenile at Park Point, Duluth) JCC, LS, 8/19 Cass DAY. All south reports: 10/29 Hennepin JLO, 11/10 Anoka and Ramsey AXH, 11/12 Rice TFB, 11/22 Anoka (different location than previously reported bird) AXH.

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) — [24 North, 25 South] Late north 9/16 Todd MSK, 9/22 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB. Late south 10/3 Rice TFB, 10/4 Sherburne (2) PLJ. High counts 8/23 St. Louis (1,277 at H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, 9/20 Nicolet (250) RMD.

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) — [1 North, 1 South] Only north reports

from Cass; vocalizing bird last observed 9/2 BAW. Only south reports from Sherburne 8/12 and 9/7 PLJ.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) — [13 North, 32 South] Late north 9/2 Wadena PJB, 9/3 Traverse BJU, Mille Lacs and Beltrami CRM, then 10/14 Otter Tail (2) KRE. Late south 9/30 Hennepin (2) DWK, 10/6 Hennepin (2) JLO, DAB, JWH. High counts 8/3 Cass (60 entering Walker chimney) RPR, 8/4 Dakota (50) DKO.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) — [25 North, 35 South] Late north 9/28 St. Louis DWR, 9/30 Lake JWL, 10/12 Hubbard *fide* MAW. Late south 10/6–7 Olmsted LAV, OWB, then 11/1 Ramsey (female-type bird coming to a feeder in North Oaks since early October) AXH. No significant counts.

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) — [27 North, 44 South] Reported throughout the state. Last reported north 11/3 St. Louis SMC.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) — [9 North, 25 South] Reported from Cass, Douglas, Isanti, Itasca, Mille Lacs, Otter Tail, Pennington, Todd, and Wadena in the north; last reported north 9/19 Pennington JMJ. Last reported south 11/11 Blue Earth RMD and Lac Qui Parle BJU, but see winter report for overwintering birds. High count 9/8 Anoka (7) RBJ.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) — [19 North, 44 South] Reported throughout the state in all regions, including 10/28 Cook *fide* JWL.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) — [22 North, 35 South] Late north 10/27–28 Cook JCC, LS. Late south 10/30 Anoka JBB, then 11/28–29 Hennepin (juvenile in Bloomington), but see winter report for possible overwintering birds. High count 10/14 Cook (10) JWH.

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubes-*



Black-backed Woodpecker, 16 November 2007, Hedboom Forest Road, Aitkin County. Photo by Shawn Zierman.

cens) — [34 North, 49 South] Reported throughout the state.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) — [30 North, 43 South] Reported throughout the state.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*) — [5 North] Reported from Aitkin, Cook, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis beginning 10/9 Cook *fide* JWL. High count 10/22 St. Louis (3, H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB; statewide count of 20 for the season.

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) — [10 North] Reported from Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, and St. Louis. High counts 10/22 St. Louis (**23**, statewide record high count at H.R.B.O., where 83 were seen for the season) EMG, KJB, 10/21 St. Louis (**22**, between Duluth and Knife River in Lake County) KRE.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) — [31 North, 44 South] Reported from all regions of the state, but last reported north 10/28 Clay (2) PBB, 10/29 Carlton LAW. High count 9/26 St. Louis (22) PHS.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) — [27 North, 29 South] Reported from all regions of the state as far southwest as Brown and Lyon.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) — [7 North, 28 South] Early south (median 8/3) 8/5 Carver DWK, JCC, 8/7 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Pipestone BJU, 8/10 Murray HHD. All north reports 8/18 Pine HHD, 8/25 Hubbard JWH, 8/31 Marshall, Norman BJU, 9/2 Todd MSK and finally 9/7 Carlton RBW matching the 9/7 median. Late south 9/10 Dakota DWK, Yellow Medicine (2) BJU, 9/23 Fillmore NBO (median 9/21).

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) — [25 North, 35 South] High count 8/25 Scott (**21**, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. Late north 9/8 Pine DPG, 9/12 Carlton LAW, 9/15 Lake AXH (median 9/19). Late south 9/22 Washington DFN, 9/23 Fillmore NBO, 9/28 Jackson BJU (median 10/3).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) — [1 North, 5 South] All north reports with ID notes: 8/13 St. Louis PHS, 8/28 St. Louis PHS, 9/5 St. Louis PHS. All south reports with notes: 8/16 Sherburne ASC, 8/17 Olmsted JWH, 8/24 Swift BJU, 8/25 Rice DAB, 8/26 Le Sueur RMD, plus birds banded 8/28, 8/31, 9/19 Rice DAT. Reported without details from one additional north and 8 south counties.

Note: During spring and fall migration, undocumented records of silent *Empidonax* flycatchers are not included in this report. Observers are encouraged to include identification details in their reports.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*) — [1 South] Only report from RBJ on 9/17 in Carver, where heard and seen in his backyard.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) — [3 North, 2 South] All north reports with ID notes: 8/4 Hubbard PBB (vocalized), 8/10 St. Louis SLF (vocalized), 8/12 St. Louis TPW (in-hand), 8/26 Cass MRN (in-hand). All south reports noting vocalizations: 8/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/26 Le Sueur (2) RMD. Additional reports without details from two north and five south counties.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) — [4 South] All reports of vocalizing birds: 8/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/2 Scott (2) BAF, 8/3 Olmsted JWH, 8/23 Blue Earth RMD. Reported without details from an additional six south counties.

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) — [4 North, 8 South] High count 9/5 St. Louis (8) PHS. Late north 9/3 Traverse BJU (vocalizing), 9/5 St. Louis PHS (vocalizing), 9/15 St. Louis PHS (appearance and vocalizations). Late south reports of vocalizing birds 9/12 Wabasha JWH, 9/15 Le Sueur (2) RMD and Scott BAF. Reported without details from an additional 6 north and 20 south counties.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) — [24 North, 44 South] High count 10/7 Scott (6) WCM. Late north 10/3 Mille Lacs ASc, 10/4 Carlton LAW, 10/9 Otter Tail SPM (median 10/14). Late south reports 10/16 Yellow Medicine RBJ, 10/17 Dakota JEB, Olmsted JWH, 10/19 Hennepin DWK — all well before the 10/31 median date.

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*) — [1 North, 1 South] Casual species reported during the fall season for the third consecutive year. New county record: 9/9 **Sherburne** (Sherburne N.W.R.) ph. †SMC. North report 9/25–26 St. Louis (Park Point) ph. †KRE, †JWL, ph. †PHS, LBe was a second county record.

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) — [18 North, 31 South] Late north 9/3 Traverse BJU, 9/4 Hubbard LBF, followed by **10/27** Lake †BAF, carefully studied to eliminate the possibility of a

vagrant Ash-throated Flycatcher (median 9/19). Late south 9/15 Pope HHD, 9/21 Yellow Medicine RBW, 10/6 Ramsey BRL (median 9/22).

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) — [6 North, 8 South] All north reports 8/6 Traverse (5) BJU, 8/23 **Itasca** (White Oak L. boat landing) JWJ, 8/27 St. Louis (Duluth) KJB, 8/31 Becker DPG, Pennington BJU, 9/2 Roseau CRM (median late north 9/10). Late south 8/24 Swift (2) BJU, 9/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 9/9).

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) — [23 North, 37 South] High count 8/4 Hubbard (7) PBB. Late north 9/4 Hubbard (2) LBF, Traverse BJU, 9/9 Todd MSK, 9/15 Carlton LAW (median 9/18). Late south 9/10 Benton MRN, Scott JEB, Yellow Medicine BJU, 9/12 Redwood JEB, 9/14 Stevens HHD (median 9/23).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) — [1 North, 3 South] Only north report 8/31 Polk BJU. All south: 8/7 Pipestone BJU, 8/11 Dakota LEC, 8/17 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/19 Dakota ADS (median late 9/4). Also see undocumented reports.

Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) — [24 North, 32 South] Reported from all regions, but only Yellow Medicine in the Southwest. Early north (median 10/8) 10/11 St. Louis MLH, 10/12 St. Louis JWJ, 10/13 Cass BAW. Early south (median 10/16) 10/12 Chisago RBW, Sherburne PLJ, 10/14 Chisago MHe. High count 11/4 Clay (10) PBB.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) — No reports.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) — [16 North, 25 South] High count 8/25 Scott (7, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. Late north 9/4 Hubbard, Wadena LBF, 9/7 Mille Lacs ASc, 9/16 Carlton LAW (median 9/19). Late south 9/22 Anoka JBB, Dakota SWe, Washington LS, 10/8 Ramsey BRL (median 9/27).

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) —

[13 North, 36 South] Early south (median 8/20) 8/22 Sherburne ASC, Washington LS, 8/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/26 McLeod PRH. High counts 9/8 Hennepin (6) HCT, 9/9 Lac Qui Parle (6) BJU. Late north 9/19 Mille Lacs ASC, St. Louis PHS, 9/22 Crow Wing HHD, St. Louis MCA, (4) ERO, 10/1 St. Louis SLF (median 10/11). Late south 10/3 Ramsey RBW, BRL, Waseca JPS, 10/7 Scott WCM, 10/24 Rock DAT (median 10/16).

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) — [16 North, 29 South] Late north 9/3 Roseau CRM, 9/7 Mille Lacs ASC, 9/22 St. Louis MCA (median 9/10). Late south 9/14 Stevens HHD, 9/15 Martin RBW, Waseca DAB, JWH, 9/16 Lyon DWK (median 9/25).

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) — [12 North, 23 South] New county record: 9/3 **Jackson** JWH. Early south (median 8/20) 8/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/21 Sherburne PLJ, 8/25 Scott DWK. High count 9/2 Scott (5, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. Late north all from St. Louis: 9/20 PHS, 9/26 LMS, 9/28 SLF (median 9/26). Late south 9/28 Carver WCM, 10/1 Le Sueur RMD, 10/7 Scott BAF (median 10/1).

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) — [26 North, 39 South] Record-high count 8/28 St. Louis (**43** at Southworth Marsh in Duluth) PHS, also 9/2 Scott (**37**, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., south trails) BAF. Late north all from St. Louis: 9/28 DWR, JRN, 9/29 JCC, 10/7 SLF (median 9/30). Late south 9/27 Dakota, Scott JEB, 9/28 Ramsey REH, 10/1 Hennepin (2, Westwood N.C.) DWK (median 10/5).

Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) — [9 North] Reported from nine counties within normal range. Last year's significant irruption was not repeated, but seasonal movement indicated by numerous late September through late October reports from the North Shore and Duluth was observed.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) — [35

North, 50 South] Reported statewide throughout the period. All high counts from H.R.B.O. in St. Louis (EMG, KJB): **4,826** on 9/10, **3,736** on 9/17. Seasonal count of 25,319 at H.R.B.O. High count away from the North Shore 9/25 Nicollet (29) RMD.

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) — [14 North] Reported from seven Northwest and seven North-central counties. High counts 9/3 Marshall (30) PBB, 8/31 Marshall (26) ASC.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) — [34 North, 49 South] Reported throughout the season statewide. High count 10/11 St. Louis (**2,663** at H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) — [22 North, 1 South] All south reports from Sherburne: 8/4 (C.R. 9 between Blue Hill Trail and Old Schoolhouse) JBB, 9/11 PLJ, 11/17 (2, Ann Lake & C.R. 5) ASC, 11/18 PRH. High count 11/16 Lake (60, Castle Danger Landfill) DWK.

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) — [17 North, 34 South] High count 8/4 Chisago (180, North Branch sod farms) DWK. Late north 11/2 Cook DWK, St. Louis FKB, 11/4 Cook LS, HHD but see winter report (median 11/24).

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) — [14 North, 25 South] High count 8/3 Cass (500, Pelican Island) BAW. Late north 9/4 Traverse BJU, 9/5 Todd MSK, 9/6 Douglas HHD (median 9/8). Late south 9/2 Jackson BJU, Yellow Medicine RBW, 9/9 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 9/15).

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) — [28 North, 42 South] High counts 8/18 Mille Lacs (1,000, "thousands along lakefront") ASC, 9/28 Hennepin (580, Sylvan Lake) PEB, 8/26 Stearns (500, south of Cold Spring) PBD, 8/30 Stearns (500, Albany Ponds) JCC. Late north 9/26 Traverse BJU, 10/9 Lake JWJ, Todd MSK 10/10 St. Louis JRN (median 10/2). Late south 10/1



Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 October 2007, Lutsen, Cook County. Photo by David Bris lance.

Le Sueur RMD, Wright DPG, 10/3 Waseca (100, Moonan Marsh) JPS, 10/9 Sherburne RBJ (median 10/18).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) — [6 North, 16 South] High count 8/14 Big Stone (27) BJU. All north reports 8/1 Cass BAW, 8/4 Pine LS, 8/6 Traverse BJU, 8/31 Polk, Red Lake BJU, 9/4 Traverse BJU, 9/15 Douglas DTT (median departure 9/6). Late south 9/11 Washington RBJ, 9/13 Sherburne RBJ, 9/23 Stevens RBW, well before 10/3 median.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) — [14 North, 28 South] Second highest fall count on record 8/9 Jackson (**1,600**, South Heron L.) KJB. Late north 9/2 Kittson JCC, CRM, LS, 9/4 Traverse BJU, 9/15 St. Louis LS (median 9/9). Late south 9/12 Brown JEB, 9/15 Le Sueur and Nicollet ChH, 9/16 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 9/17).

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) — [21 North, 36 South] No significantly high counts reported. Late north 9/2 Clay DPG, Grant, Traverse and Wilkin HHD, 9/4 Traverse BJU, 9/6 Douglas HHD (median 9/15). Late south 9/15 Le Sueur and

Nicollet ChH, Pope HHD, Scott REH, 9/24 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/12 Houston (33) JWH (median 9/28).

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) — [34 North, 46 South] High count 8/19 Carlton (110) DWK. Late north 9/26 Traverse BJU, 10/9 Lake (5, Two Harbors) JWJ, 10/16 Todd MSK (median 10/8). Late south 10/9 Blue Earth (4) ChH, 10/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/13 Lac Qui Parle (3) PHS (median 10/17).

Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) — [34 North, 50 South] Reported statewide. Major movement reported along the North Shore, with over 200 banded 9/23–27 H.R.B.O. *vide* DAG.

Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonica*) — [12 North] Significant North Shore irruption including 27 counted on 10/27 between McQuade Road (St. Louis) and Iona's Beach (Lake) KRE, JWJ, m.ob.; 17 reported from St. Louis that same day by JCC; and 15 found in St. Louis between Duluth and Knife River on 10/21 KRE.

Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) — [6 South] Reported from Dakota, Fillmore, Houston, Olmsted, Rice, Washington.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) — [31 North, 51 South] Present south from beginning of the period, well-represented in all regions. High count 8/31 St. Louis (**176**, H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB.

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) — [34 North, 48 South] Reported statewide.

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) — [20 North, 27 South] Early south 8/17 Anoka DWK (same location as summer report). First migrants (median 9/3) 9/12 Wabasha JWJ, 9/15 Hennepin HCT and Scott BAF.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) — [5 South] All reports 9/10 Fillmore (Forestville S.P.) RLE, 9/15–28



Sedge Wren, 31 August 2007, Deer River, Itasca County. Photo by Earl Orf.

Brown (Lake Hanska C.P.) JEB, JJS, 9/28–10/15 Olmsted OWB, 10/12–11/18 Houston (Reno causeway parking area) JWH, †BAF, 11/28 Dakota JLI.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) — [17 North, 40 South] Late north 9/19 Pennington JMJ, 9/22 St. Louis DWK, 9/24 Clay RHO (median 10/4). Late south 10/4 Freeborn RBW, Washington RBJ, 10/7 Scott WCM, BAF, Washington DFN (median 10/16). Also see undocumented reports.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) — [5 North, 24 South] Early south (median 9/7) 8/25 Sherburne ASc, 9/8 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/12 Washington LMS. Late north 10/17 St. Louis (2) SLF, 10/19 Mille Lacs ASc, 10/22 St. Louis LAW (median 10/4). Late south 10/20 Scott BAF, Wright RBW, 10/21 Dakota BAF, Fillmore NBO, 11/24 Hennepin JCC (median 12/13).

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) — [8

North, 29 South] Late north 9/2 Clay DPG, 9/3 St. Louis (5, also high count) TPW, 9/4 Traverse BJU more than a month before the 10/12 median. Late south 10/3 Olmsted JWH, 10/6 Brown BTS, 10/13 Dakota PEJ (median 10/12).

Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) — [12 North, 25 South] Late north 9/3 Lake of the Woods JJS, CRM, 9/4 Traverse BJU, Wadena LBF, 9/8 Marshall JMJ, well before the 10/13 median. Late south 10/13 Lincoln JCC, 10/17 Hennepin DWK, 10/22 Rice TFB (median 11/4).

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) — [22 North, 32 South] First south reports away from known summering locations (median 9/16) 9/25 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 9/27 Dakota, Scott JEB, 9/28 Blue Earth JJS, Ramsey REH. Only November north report 11/21 St. Louis FKB.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calen-*

dula) — [28 North, 50 South] Early south (median 8/28) 8/22 Dakota DDo, 8/26 Dakota SWe, Meeker DMF, 9/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU. High counts 10/7 Scott (**42**, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., south horse and pet trails) BAF, 10/14 Scott (30, Louisville Swamp) BAF, 10/6 Pine (20, St. Croix S.P.) MHe. Late north 10/22 Beltrami, Lake of the Woods BJU, 10/26 Lake BAF, 10/27 St. Louis SLF (median 11/1). Many south reports through 10/21, then only 10/25 Waseca RBW, 11/8 Ramsey REH, well ahead of the 11/21 median.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliptila caerulea*) — [2 North, 27 South] Only north report 9/3 Traverse BJU. Late south 9/16 Brown JSS, 9/21 Renville RBW, 9/22 Fillmore NBO (median 9/24).

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) — [30 North, 45 South] High count 10/14 Scott (52) BAF. Late north 11/2 St. Louis HHD, 11/3 St. Louis LS, 11/6 Mille Lacs ASc (median 11/14), but also see winter report. Present throughout the period south.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) — [3 North] All reports from the North Shore: 10/23 Lake (female at Castle Danger W.T.P.) *fide* JWJ; female and immature male present 10/27–11/11 Cook (Grand Marais municipal campground and nearby) SLL, ph. JWJ, ph. CGu (male), †KRE, m.ob.; and 11/2 St. Louis (female near Sky Harbor Airport) CMB.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) — [5 North, 6 South] New county record 11/10 **Le Sueur** (near Elysian) CAK. First north reports (median 10/12) 10/10 Lake (Knife River) KRE, JWJ, 10/20 Cook (Taconite Harbor) *fide* JWJ, 10/24 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) SPM. Only north report from outside the Northeast 11/13 Clay DWR. Additional south reports 10/28 Dakota (Sand Coulee S.N.A.) LWh, 11/17–25 Olmsted (2 near Oronoco) RLE, ph. JLO, m.ob., 11/17–18 Sherburne (Ann Lake, 4th consecutive year at this location) ASc, PRH, 11/21 **Chisago** RMa, 11/24 **Mower** JEM. A total of 17 individuals,

compared to 39 reported the prior fall.

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) — [13 North, 9 South] Late north 9/1 Marshall HHD, 9/15 Aitkin DPG, Lake AXH (median 9/14). Late south 9/1 Scott BAF, 9/3 Anoka DWK, Lac Qui Parle BJU, then no further reports until 9/30 Dakota RLW, well after the 9/17 median.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catbarus minimus*) — [2 North, 6 South] All north reports from Cass and St. Louis. Early north (median 9/3) 8/13 St. Louis PHS, 8/28 St. Louis PHS. Early south (median 9/2) 8/29 Hennepin ALD, 9/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/8 Blue Earth RMD, Meeker DMF. Late north 9/19 Cass BAW, 9/29 St. Louis PHS (median 10/3). Late south 10/3 Rice TFB, 10/6 Hennepin JWH (median 10/6).

Swainson's Thrush (*Catbarus ustulatus*) — [15 North, 23 South] Early south (median 8/10) 8/14 Sherburne ASc, 8/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/25 Hennepin DWK. High count 9/15 Lake (20 at Wilson L. in east-central Lake County) AXH. Late north 10/7 St. Louis SES, 10/21 St. Louis PHS, followed by one November report at a feeder near Eldred, **11/14** Polk (no details) DLT (median 10/17). Late south 10/6 Anoka RBJ, Fillmore (2) NBO, Hennepin BAF, DAB, JWH, 10/7 Washington DFN, 10 days prior to 10/17 median.

Hermit Thrush (*Catbarus guttatus*) — [12 North, 29 South] Early south (median 9/12) 9/27 Dakota JEB, 9/28 Jackson BJU, 10/1 Hennepin PEB, Sherburne PLJ. Record high count 10/7 Scott (**22**, at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. Late north 10/19 Morrison CAM, 10/22 Lake SLF, St. Louis PHS, 11/3 St. Louis SLF (median 10/28). Late south 10/31 Hennepin DWK, 11/4 Scott RBW, but see winter report.

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) — [3 North, 5 South] After August north reports from Mille Lacs and Norman, the only report was of a record-late bird **11/10–12** Clay (Moorhead) JWH, PBB (median 9/5). Late south reports 8/25 Scott

BAF, 8/28 Sherburne ASc, 9/1 Meeker DMF were well before the 10/1 median.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) — [32 North, 49 South] High count of 1,493 10/10 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB. Highest count away from North Shore 10/14 Scott (560) BAF.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) — [2 North] All reports: 11/28+ St. Louis, a male which subsequently over-wintered at an east Duluth feeder *vide* JWJ, 11/30 Lake (male found frozen under feeders in Castle Danger) JWJ.

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) — [25 North, 42 South] High count 9/2 Scott (22 along south trails of Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. Many north reports through 9/29 Becker DFN, but only two October reports: 10/21 St. Louis SLF and 10/27 Lake JCC (median 10/29). Latest south reports 10/8 Scott RBJ, 10/12 Yellow Medicine BJU, 10/18 Winona JOB, all well before 11/21 median.

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) — [2 North, 1 South] Only north reports: 9/15 Cook *vide* AXH and 11/17–29 St. Louis (Hoyt Lakes) †NAJ, LS, JCC, ph. MLH. From the south, only sighting 10/6 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) DSw.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) — [10 North, 20 South] Most birds had departed the state well ahead of recent medians, with only one October report north and two south; no November reports. Late north 9/22 St. Louis ALB, 9/29 Cass MRN, 10/10 Todd MSK (median 12/16). Late south 9/28 Jackson BJU, 10/10 Rice DAB, 10/13 Brown JSS, but see winter report.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — [32 North, 52 South] Many reports from all regions. High count 9/18 Pope (600) DPG.

American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) — [17 North, 24 South] Early north (median 9/10) **8/25** Pennington (Thief River Falls

W.T.P., second-earliest fall arrival date on record.) PHS, 8/31 Marshall BJU, 9/4 Marshall BJU. Early south (median 9/15) 9/8 Rice TFB, 9/10 Scott JEB, 9/14 Sherburne ASc. High counts 10/13 Yellow Medicine (151) PHS, 10/28 Dakota (100) JPM, ADS. Late north 11/4 Cook (Grand Marais) LS, 11/6 Cook CRM, 11/11 St. Louis SLF (median 11/4). Late south 11/3 Carver RPR, 11/4 Cottonwood BTS 11/6, Lac Qui Parle (28) BJU (median 11/4).

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) — [16 North, 1 South] Early north (median 10/4) 9/21 St. Louis ABL, H.R.B.O., 9/22 St. Louis *vide* JWJ, 9/26 Lake (10 at Knife River, including 2 juveniles) JWJ, KRE. Arrived throughout the north region by late October. Only south report three birds in a flock of Cedar Waxwings 11/17 Sherburne ASc (median 11/6). High counts 11/16 Cook (120, Grand Marais campground) DWK, 11/22 Lake (120, Knife River) *vide* JWJ.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) — [34 North, 47 South] Found throughout the state. High counts 8/23 St. Louis (706 at H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, 10/14 Scott (120) BAF, 8/14 Mille Lacs (100) ASc, 8/30 Anoka (100) DPG.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) — [13 South] Most reports from Southeast region, ranging north to Chisago and Sherburne and west to Brown. Late south 9/9 Wabasha RBW, 9/11 Fillmore JWH (median 9/12).

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) — [8 North, 21 South] Early south away from known breeding areas (median 8/14) 8/12 Le Sueur JCC, 8/16 Olmsted JWH. High count 8/9 St. Louis (7) PHS. Late north 9/5 Todd MSK, 9/8 Cass MRN, Pine DPG (median 9/9). Late south 9/15 Hennepin HCT and Scott BAF, 9/20 Rice TFB (median 9/22). Two hybrid individuals noted: “Brewster’s Warbler” 8/24 Dakota JPM and a female “Lawrence’s Warbler” (probably hatch-year) 8/25 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) — [24 North, 31 South] Present both north and south at beginning of period, see summer report for details. High counts 9/2 St. Louis (74, H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, 8/28 St. Louis (73) PHS. Late north 10/9 Carlton LAW, 10/14 Cook JWH, 10/17 St. Louis SLF (median 10/17). Late south 10/13 Dakota RLW, Hennepin SWe, Washington JWO, 10/14 Scott BAF (median 10/16).

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) — [15 North, 36 South] Early north (median 8/20) 9/2 Roseau KRE, JCC, CRM, 9/5 Cass LBF, Mille Lacs ASc, St. Louis PHS. Early south (median 8/26) 8/29 Dakota JPM, 9/2 Goodhue SWe, 9/8 Le Sueur JEB. High count 10/7 Scott (23, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R., south horse and pet trails.) BAF. Late north 10/12 St. Louis SLF, 10/13 Mille Lacs ASc, 10/14 Morrison HHD, Traverse JCC (median 10/23). Late south 10/21 Carver DWK, Hennepin SWe, 10/26 Fillmore NBO, 11/1 Meeker DMF (median 10/24). **Note:** Undocumented August reports were excluded.

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) — [27 North, 44 South] Early south 8/4 Anoka (11) DWK and Dakota DKo, 8/5 Meeker DMF. Exceptional fall migration with several record and near-record high counts reported, including 8/18 St. Louis (116, record-high fall count, Park Point Recreation Area) MLH, 8/27 Dakota (100+ Spring Lake Park) JPM, 8/9 St. Louis (78) PHS. Late north 10/13 St. Louis (Hearding Island) JWH, 10/14 Cook (3) JWH, 10/24 St. Louis BCM (median 10/20). Late south 10/17 Hennepin DWK, 10/19 Hennepin LS, 10/21 Olmsted LAV (median 10/22).

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) — [5 North, 18 South] New county record: 9/8 **Big Stone** WCM. Early south (median 8/18) 8/18 Hennepin HCT, 8/24 Hennepin JBB, 8/25 Dakota (Schaar's Bluff) DWK, Hennepin HCT, Sherburne ASc. High counts 9/8 Rice (6) DAB, 8/26 St. Louis (5) PHS, 9/2 Dakota (5) JPM. Late north 9/23 St. Louis PHS, 9/24 St. Louis KJB, 9/28

St. Louis SLF (median 9/27). Late south 9/17 Steele JJS, JWH, 9/22 Anoka JBB, Hennepin HCT (median 9/28).

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) — [19 North, 26 South] High counts 8/9 St. Louis (34) PHS, 8/13 St. Louis (25) PHS. Late north reports well after the 9/23 median: 10/7 Lake JWJ, 10/10 Lake (Knife River) KRE, JWJ. Late south 9/12 Brown JEB, 9/15 Le Sueur RMD, ChH, Waseca DAB, JWH (median 9/30).

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) — [15 North, 32 South] Early south away from known breeding locations 8/3, 8/5 Blue Earth ChH, 8/8 Jackson KJB. High counts 8/26 Anoka (20) DWK, 8/24 Rice (18) DAB. Late north 9/19 Mille Lacs ASc, St. Louis PHS, 9/22 St. Louis MCA (median 9/28). Late south 9/21 Washington LMS, Yellow Medicine RBW, 9/23 Hennepin BAF, 10/3 Ramsey BRL (median 10/1).

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magna*) — [8 North, 28 South] Early south (median 8/15) 8/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Rice TFB, 8/15 Dakota JPM, Hennepin JBB, 8/17 Olmsted JWH. High counts 8/24 Rice (11) DAB, 8/26 St. Louis (11) PHS. Late north 10/1 St. Louis (2) SLF, 10/9 Lake JWJ, 10/14 Wilkin JCC (median 10/1). Late south 10/5 Anoka JBB, Ramsey (7) EMH, 10/6 Hennepin JBB, 10/8 Ramsey (2) BRL.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) — [13 North, 5 South] All south reports: 8/14 Sherburne ASc, 8/20 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/26 Anoka DWK, Meeker DMF, 9/15 Waseca DAB, JJS, JWH (median early 8/22, late 9/28). High count of 8/28 St. Louis (32, Park Point, Duluth) KRE equals previous fall record. Two north reports after September, 10/19 St. Louis SLF and 11/12 Lake (adult male at Larsmont Cottages) JWJ.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) — [1 North, 6 South] All south 8/26 Anoka (along Linwood L.)

DWK, Goodhue (Miesville Ravine) DDo, 8/31 Rice (banded) DAT, 9/2 Anoka DWK, 9/3 Washington RBW, 9/7 Wright (near Stanley Eddy Park) DMF, 9/13 Hennepin (male at Old Cedar Ave., JEP), 9/22–24 Hennepin (female at Minnehaha Creek) BAF, JLO, JWH, 10/17–18 Hennepin (male at Old Cedar Ave.) *vide* AXH. Only north report 9/2 St. Louis (female found along Maple Woods Trail at H.R.B.O.) JCG.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) — [31 North, 45 South] Of note are two reports of Audubon's race, 11/12–13 Cook (Grand Marais campground) ph. SLF, DBF and 11/12 Dakota †JPM. Early south (median 8/21) 8/26 Meeker DMF, 8/30 Anoka DPG, 9/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU. High counts 9/22 St. Louis (645 at H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, 9/23 St. Louis (168) PHS. Late north 11/14 St. Louis *vide* JWJ, 11/24, 11/26 Clay RHO (median 11/21). Late south (but see winter report) 10/27 Chisago DWK, Dakota JLO, 11/12 Dakota (Audubon's) †JPM.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) — [12 North, 20 South] Early south (median 8/20) 8/17 Anoka DWK, 8/22 Fillmore NBO, Washington LS, 8/25 Hennepin HCT. Late north 9/8 Carlton HHD, Lake EEO, Pine DPG, 9/15 St. Louis PHS (median 9/29). Late south 10/1 Houston RBW, 10/3 Rice TFB, 10/4 Faribault RBW (median 10/4).

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) — [12 North, 23 South] Early south (median 8/9) 8/8 Jackson KJB, 8/13 Rice DAT, 8/14 Rice TFB. Late north 9/15 St. Louis PHS, 9/22 St. Louis ASc (median 9/20). Late south 9/9 Anoka DWK, Le Sueur DAB, 9/11 Freeborn CRM, 9/15 Pope HHD (median 9/25).

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) — [18 North, 7 South] High count 9/8 Anoka (5, Boot Lake S.N.A.) RBJ. Late north 9/21 Hubbard MAW, 9/22 Aitkin HHD, St. Louis MCA (median 10/3). Late south 9/5 Hennepin DDo, 9/8 Anoka RBJ, 9/9 Anoka DWK (median 9/24).



Black-and-white Warbler, 31 August 2007, Lutsen, Cook County. Photo by David Bris lance.

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*) — [20 North, 26 South] Early south (median 8/25) 8/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/30 Carver RMD, 9/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU. High count 9/23 St. Louis (18) PHS. Late north 10/26 Cook MHe, 10/27 Cook DAB, Lake (Two Harbors) BAF, JWJ, 10/30 St. Louis PHS (median 10/23). Late south 10/14 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R. Auto Loop) JCC, 10/15 Swift BJU, 10/17 Olmsted JWH (median 10/18).

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) — [8 North, 21 South] Early south (median 8/19) 8/17 Anoka DWK, Olmsted JWJ, 8/19 Anoka JCC. High counts 8/26 Anoka (6) DWK, 9/15 St. Louis (5) PHS. Late north 9/7 Pine RBW, 9/8 St. Louis PEB, 9/15 St. Louis PHS (median 9/29). Late south 9/23 Stearns HHD, 9/24 Hennepin JLO, JWJ, 10/1 Ramsey BRL (median 10/2).

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) — [9 North, 16 South] Early north (median 8/25) 8/22 Lake JWJ, 8/25 Pennington HHD, St. Louis LS, 8/28 St. Louis (11) PHS. Early south 8/15 Dakota JPM, 8/18 Ramsey REH, 8/24 Dakota JPM, Sherburne ASc (median 8/21). Exceptional

high counts 9/11 (**40**, second highest fall) and 9/15 (**28**) St. Louis (Park Point) PHS. Late north 9/28 St. Louis SLF, 10/7 Lake (Two Harbors) JWJ, 10/21 Cook (Father Baraga's Cross) †RPR (median 10/7). Late south 9/16 Hennepin DDo, 9/17 Anoka DPG, 9/20 Anoka REH (median 9/30).

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) — [3 South] All reports: 8/12 Sibley (Rush River C.P.) JCC, RBW, **9/1** Dakota (immature female) ADS, **9/2** Goodhue SWe (median late south 8/27).

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) — [23 North, 34 South] High counts 8/26 Dakota (**25**) SWe, 8/13 St. Louis (16) PHS. Late north 9/23 St. Louis PHS, ABL, 9/28 St. Louis (3) SLF, 9/30 Clay RHO (median 10/2). Late south 10/3 Waseca JPS, 10/4 Ramsey REH, 10/6 Hennepin BAF (median 10/4).

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) — [27 North, 35 South] High count 9/5 St. Louis (28) PHS. Late north 9/28 St. Louis SLF, 10/10 Lake (Knife River) JWJ, 10/21 Lake (Two Harbors) LS, KRE (median 10/6). Late south 10/7 Scott BAF, 10/12 Houston JWJ, 10/17 Olmsted JWJ (median 10/10).

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) — [1 South] Only two reports, 8/11 Dakota LEC and 8/14 Dakota JLO (median late south 9/2).

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) — [15 North, 29 South] High count 9/3 Anoka (**27**, record high fall count) DWK. Late north 9/15 Cass ALB, St. Louis PHS, 9/24 Carlton LAW, 9/25 St. Louis SLF (median 9/27). Late south 10/7 Scott BAF, 10/21 McLeod PRH, followed by one very late report 11/23 Olmsted HHD.

Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) — [10 North, 20 South] Early south (median 8/7) 8/5 Jackson KJB, 8/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Rice TFB, 8/15 Sherburne PLJ. High counts of ten birds on 9/1, 8 on 8/25 and 8 on 9/3 all from

Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. Late north 9/22 St. Louis DWK, 9/25 Otter Tail DTT, 10/3 St. Louis SLF (median 9/28). Late south 9/28 Jackson BJU, 10/3 Olmsted JWJ, 10/20 Washington LMS (median 10/3).

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) — No reports.

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) — [1 South] Only report **8/31** Blue Earth (apparent adult still at Williams N.C.) AXH.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) — [4 North, 4 South] All north 8/10 Aitkin (3) Asc, 8/14 Cass ALB, Mille Lacs Asc, 8/26 St. Louis KRE, 9/5 St. Louis PHS, 9/22 St. Louis JLO. All south 8/25 Sherburne Asc, 8/26 Anoka DWK, Goodhue SWe, Meeker DMF, 9/1 Meeker DMF. Median early south 8/23, late north 9/19, late south 9/17.

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) — [12 North, 14 South] Early south (median 8/16) 8/13 Sherburne PLJ, 8/15 Chisago RBW, 8/16 Olmsted LAV. Season high count 8/17 Anoka (**11**, record high fall count) DWK. Late north 9/2 Beltrami DWR, Traverse HHD, 9/3 Traverse BJU, 9/5 St. Louis ERo (median 9/14). Late south 9/3 Rice DAB, 9/10 Scott JEB, 9/12 Le Sueur RMD (median 9/30).

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) — [25 North, 35 South] Season high count 9/5 St. Louis (17) PHS. Late north 9/27 Mille Lacs Asc, 9/29 St. Louis PHS, m.ob., 10/9 St. Louis SLF (median 10/14). Late south 10/9 Blue Earth ChH, 10/13 Hennepin SWe, 10/20 Washington LMS (median 10/26).

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) — [2 South] All reports by BAF 8/2–9/15 from Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. in Dakota and Scott counties, representing a total of 19 territories for the 2007 breeding season. Total of 16 nests found on 12 territories; 6 nests parasitized by Brown-headed



Chipping Sparrows, 8 August 2007, Lutsen, Cook County. Photo by David Brisance.

Cowbird. Total young fledged from these nests: 22 Hooded Warblers, 2 Brown-headed Cowbirds.

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) — [17 North, 28 South] Late north 9/19 Mille Lacs ASc, 9/27 St. Louis SLF, 9/30 St. Louis KJB (median 9/22). Early south (median 8/15) 8/17 Sherburne ASc, 8/18 Meeker DMF, 8/19 Dakota ADS. Bulk of south migrants occurred from mid-August to mid-September. Late south 9/24 Hennepin JWH, 9/30 Lyon HHD, LS, JJS, 10/7 Hennepin BAF, Le Sueur JJS (median 9/25).

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) — [6 North, 16 South] New fall season high count 8/24 Rice (12) DAB. Late north 9/7 Mille Lacs ASc, 9/8 St. Louis LAV, 9/22 St. Louis MCA (median 9/15). Early south (median 8/13) 8/9 Sherburne PLJ, 8/13 Dakota DAT, 8/14 Rice TFB. Late south 9/8 Goodhue SWe, 9/17 Anoka DPG, 9/20

Rice TFB (median 9/23).

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)— No reports.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) — [1 North] Only report 10/21–23 St. Louis (female at Stoney Point) KRE, LS, NRI.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) — [7 North, 18 South] Late north 9/2 St. Louis ABL, 9/9 Lake EEO, 9/15 Cass ALB (median 9/21). Late south 9/13 Olmsted JWH, 9/15 Carver WCM, 9/17 Anoka DPG (median 10/2).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) — No reports.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) — [1 South] Only report: 9/28 Rock HHD.

Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) — [1 North, 16 South] Only north

10/7 Todd MSK. Late south 10/14 Scott BAF, 10/18–21 Fillmore NBO.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) — [21 North, 31 South] Early north (median 9/22) 9/25 St. Louis PHS, 9/29 St. Louis PHS, DWR, 9/30 Cass BAW, ALB. Early south (median 9/30) 10/4 Lincoln BJU, 10/6 Meeker DMF, 10/10 Fillmore NBO. Season high count 10/17 St. Louis (88) PHS.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) — [28 North, 41 South] Late north 10/20 Cass and Wadena BJU, 10/21 Beltrami and Lake of the Woods BJU (median 11/4). Late south 10/19 Hennepin MCA, 10/20 Scott DAB, 10/21 Dakota SWe, Olmsted LAV (median 11/11). Season high count 8/31 Lake of the Woods (25) JCC. All reports of this species ceased after the third week of October.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) — [20 North, 23 South] Late north 9/28 St. Louis DWR, 10/6 Otter Tail NAJ, 10/24 St. Louis BCM (median 10/16). Late south 10/11 Brown JEB, 10/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/26 Stearns STW (median 10/14). Bulk of reports ceased after the first week in October.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) — [3 North, 30 South] All north reports 8/1 Mille Lacs Asc, Otter Tail DTT, 9/12 St. Louis *fide* JWJL (median 10/20). Late south 10/14 Rice JLO, Scott BAF, 10/15 Olmsted LAV, 10/17 Dakota JEB, 10/21 Dakota BAF, Olmsted LAV (median 10/27). Season high count 9/9 Dakota (14) ADS. All reports of this species ceased after the third week of October.

Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*) — [18 North, 35 South] Late north 10/9 Clay PHS, Todd MSK, 10/21 Lake of the Woods BJU, Wadena PJB (median 10/20). Late south 10/16 Yellow Medicine RBJ, 10/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/7 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 10/27).

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

— [6 North, 11 South] All north reports: 8/25 Polk and Red Lake HHD, 8/31 Becker DPG, Pennington BJU, 9/8 Kanabec DPG, 9/13 Itasca SC. Late south 9/12 Redwood JEB, 9/21 Dakota SWe, 9/26 Meeker DMF, 9/28 Sherburne Asc.

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW (*Amphispiza bilineata*) — [1 North] An immature at Lake Winnibigoshish, Painted Turtle campsite, in **Cass** from 9/22–23 furnished a seventh state record (ph. †BAW, MoM, m.ob.).

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — [23 North, 32 South] Late north 10/27 Cook JWJL, 10/29 Cook SLF, 11/10 Lake PEB (median 11/2). Late south 10/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/3 Scott BAF, 11/4 Cottonwood BTS, Olmsted JWH (median 11/3). Reports of this species basically ceased after the end of October.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) — [2 North, 12 South] Very few reports this season. Only north reports: 8/6 Traverse BJU, 9/2 Clay DPG. Late south 8/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Rock DAT, 8/24 Swift BJU, 9/12 Brown JEB (median 8/28).

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) — [5 South] All reports: 8/1 Lac Qui Parle (Plover Prairie S.N.A.) BJU, 8/5 Steele PHS, 8/14 Lac Qui Parle (Plover Prairie S.N.A.) KJB, 9/22 Brown (Bashaw Twp.) BTS, 9/27 Blue Earth (Cobb River W.P.A.) RMD, 10/5 Dakota SWe, 10/21 Dakota DKO.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) — [6 North, 11 South] Late north 9/28 St. Louis DMF, 10/10 Lake JWJL, St. Louis KRE, JWJL, 10/13 Wilkin KRE (median 10/3). Late south 10/11 Brown JEB, Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/13 Hennepin HCT, PEB, Meeker DMF, 10/16 Redwood RBJ (median 10/18).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) — [1 North, 6 South] All north reports: 9/29 St. Louis (Minne-

sota Point) LBe, 10/10 St. Louis (McQuade Rd.) JWJ. All south reports: 9/17–18 Lac Qui Parle (Lac Qui Parle W.M.A. in Lake Shore Twp.) BJU, 9/22 Big Stone RBW, 9/26 Olmsted JWH, 9/28 **Blue Earth** (Cobb River W.P.A.) RMD, Olmsted (East Landfill Reservoir) JWH, 10/5 Meeker (Litchfield Twp.) DMF, 10/6 Brown (Bashaw Twp.) BTS, 10/11 Brown JEB.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) — [18 North, 31 South] Early north (median 9/21) 9/18 Cass BAW, 9/20 St. Louis PHS, 9/21 St. Louis TPW. Early south (median 9/19) 9/15 Waseca DAB, 9/28 Carver JLO, Jackson BJU, Ramsey JBB, Rice DAB, Rock HHD. Late north 11/11 Wadena PJB, 11/14 Itasca LSL, 11/28 St. Louis ERo (median 12/15). Late south 11/21 Steele NFT, 11/25 Carver DWK (median 12/20). The vast majority of reports occurred in October. Please see winter report for late migrants or over-wintering birds north and south. New season high counts: 10/14 Scott (**87** total in Minnesota Valley N.W.R. (Louisville Swamp) and S.R.A. (Lawrence Unit)) BAF, 10/21 Hennepin (**50** in small woodland between L. Harriet and L. Calhoun in Minneapolis) PEB.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) — [30 North, 48 South] Recorded throughout the season. Reports ceased after third week in November.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) — [20 North, 35 South] Late north 10/12 Norman LBF, 10/13 Mille Lacs ASc, 10/20 St. Louis SLF, 10/22 St. Louis PHS (median 10/21). Early south (median 8/31) 8/14 Sherburne ASc, 9/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/5 Washington JEB, 9/8 Goodhue SWE, Hennepin HCT, Meeker DMF. Late south 10/19 Hennepin (Westwood N.C.) DWK, MCA, 10/20 Dakota RBJ, Hennepin HCT, Scott DAB, Sherburne RBW, 10/21 Olmsted LAV (median 11/9).

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) — [25 North, 38 South] Late north 10/21 Cook RPR, Koochiching BJU, 10/26 Cook RBJ, 11/12 Lake SLF (median 10/29). Late



White-throated Sparrow, 27 September 2007, Lutsen, Cook County. Photo by David Brisance.

south 11/11 Hennepin BAF, 11/12 Ramsey CRM, 11/23 Meeker DMF (median 11/22). Season high count 10/6 Hennepin (30, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge) BAF. Most reports of this species ceased after the third week in October.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) — [26 North, 46 South] Early south (median 8/29) 8/25 Sherburne PLJ, 8/29 Sherburne ASc, 8/31 Hennepin ALD, 9/3 Anoka JBB, Scott BAF. Notable high counts: 10/7 Scott (185, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF, 9/20 St. Louis (130) PHS. Many winter sightings as well, both north and south (see winter report).

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) — [18 North, 26 South] Early north (median 9/17) 9/16 St. Louis NAJ, 9/22 Aitkin HHD, Lake JWJ, Mille Lacs ASc, St. Louis JLO, DWK, ERo, 9/23 Koochiching JWH. Early south (median 9/22) 9/27 Dakota JEB, 9/28 Carver WCM, Jackson BJU, Murray and Rock HHD, Sherburne ASc. Reports continued for this species both north and south in the winter months (see winter report). Numbers of reports and individuals continue to be low compared to previous seasons.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) — [12 North, 22 South] Early north (median 9/10) 9/8 Lake EEO, 9/12 St.

Louis ERo, 9/13 St. Louis ABL, SMC. Early south (median 9/16) 9/15 Pope HHD, 9/24 Washington RBJ, 9/25 Sherburne PLJ, 9/27 Dakota JEB. Late north 10/30 Cook SLF, 11/2 Lake LS, ADS, 11/3 St. Louis SLF (median 11/14). Late south 10/21 Dakota SWe, 10/28 Scott BAF, 11/3 Rice DAB (median 11/30). Only a few records for this species were reported during the subsequent winter (see winter report). As with the previous species, there were fewer reports than normal and the number of birds was low.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) — [30 North, 46 South] Early south (median 9/10) 9/9 Anoka DWK, 9/13 Meeker DMF, 9/21 Anoka JBB, 9/22 Washington LS. Otherwise, reported throughout the state and season.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) — [16 North, 9 South] Early north (median 9/13) 9/14 Lake JWJ, 9/22 St. Louis PHS, MCA, 9/23 St. Louis PHS, ABL. Early south (median 9/24) 9/17 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/26 Meeker DMF, 10/4 Lincoln BJU. Season high count 10/30 Lac Qui Parle (400) BJU. Late north 11/1 Cook RBW, 11/6 Cook CRM, 11/10 Lake PEB. There were a few observations of this species north for the winter. See winter report for both south and north reports. Also, sightings and numbers were down compared to previous seasons.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) — [1 South] Only report 10/15 Cottonwood (8 at Rock Ridge Prairie S.N.A.) RBJ.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) — No reports.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) — [25 North, 16 South] Early north (median 10/5) 10/11 St. Louis KJB, 10/12 Lake JWJ, St. Louis JRN, 10/13 Cass ALB, BAW, Mille Lacs ASc, St. Louis JWH. Early south (median 10/18) 10/13 Big Stone PHS, 10/18 Rice TFB, 10/21 McLeod HHD, 10/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Season high counts: 10/26 St. Louis (165) BAF, 10/28 Roseau (100) BJS, 11/4 Hennepin (90) BAF.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) — [16 North, 44 South] Reported throughout all regions. Unusual were 8 in Cook on 10/28 (KRE).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) — [21 North, 31 South] Late north 9/12 St. Louis ERo, 9/15 St. Louis PHS, 9/21 Morrison DTM, JeM, 9/23 Wadena PJB (median 9/29). Late south 9/24 Fillmore NBO, 9/28 Fillmore NBO, Jackson BJU, 10/13 Dakota RLW, Washington JWo (median 10/15).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) — [4 South] All reports: 8/7 Pipestone (4 singing males in central Osborne Twp. and another singing male at the gravel pit in section 27, Rock Twp.) BJU, 8/10 Murray and Pipestone HHD, 8/11 Nobles BTS, Pipestone (gravel pits just northwest of Edgerton) RBW, Rock (Blue Mounds S.P.) RBW, 8/22 Rock DAT.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) — [9 North, 31 South] As in last year, low number of reports north. Late north 9/22 Traverse RBW, 9/29 St. Louis JCC (median 9/23). Many south reports throughout August to mid-September. Late south 9/24 Washington RBJ, 10/4 Hennepin JWH (median 10/10).

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) — [2 North, 12 South] Only north reports: 8/1 Mille Lacs ASc, NSc, 8/20 Cass ALB. Late south 8/22 Rock DAT, 8/24 Swift BJU, 9/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 9/15 Lac Qui Parle (Salt L.) DWK (median 8/21).

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) — [13 North, 13 South] Aside from high count of 75 in Aitkin on 8/25 (PEJ), relatively low number of observations both north and south. Late north 9/2 Roseau JCC, CRM, LS, Wilkin HHD, 9/15 St. Louis LS, 9/22 St. Louis MCA (median 9/18). Late south 9/10 Yellow Medicine BJU, 9/26–28 Olmsted JWH, 10/11 Brown JEB (median 9/30).

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) — [28 North, 45 South] Observed in

all regions. Noteworthy high counts: 9/12 Kandiyohi (**100,000**) MRN, 9/3 Jackson (9,250) PHS, 10/23 Meeker (3,000) DPG.

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) — [5 North, 9 South] All north reports 8/1 Todd MSK, 8/3 Cass BAW, 8/4 Pine LS, 8/9 Pine JMP, 8/10 Aitkin ASc, 8/15 Cass ALB, 10/3 Mille Lacs ASc, 11/7 Todd MSK. Late south 10/12, 10/17 Sherburne ASc, 10/20 Sherburne RBW.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) — [14 North, 19 South] All north reports were from the western part of state except for birds in Cook. Late north 10/20 Wilkin JLO, RPR, Otter Tail JMJ, Todd RBW, 10/22 Wilkin BJU, 10/21–26 Cook RPR, RBJ, 10/28 Otter Tail AJD, 11/7 Marshall GT (median 11/5). Late south 10/16 Cottonwood RBJ, 10/19 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 10/23 Cottonwood DWK.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) — [5 North, 20 South] All north reports 8/6 Traverse BJU, 8/24 Marshall PHS, 8/25 Pennington PHS, 9/2 Cass ALB, Roseau CRM, LS, 9/4 Traverse BJU. Most south reports from Southwest and West-central regions. Season high count 9/3 Jackson (375) PHS. Late south 9/21 Jackson JLO, DAB, 9/26 Big Stone BJU, 10/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 10/22).

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) — [21 North, 15 South] Early north reports all from St. Louis (median 9/18): 9/12 PHS, 9/14 ABL, 9/15 PHS, LS, JCC, 9/19 SLF. Early south (median 9/21) 9/24 Sherburne PLJ, 9/29 Sherburne DWK, 10/2 Olmsted JWH. Season high counts 11/6 Dakota (**1,500**) JPM, 10/20 St. Louis (879 at H.R.B.O., where 3,471 reported for the season) EMG, KJB. Late north 11/10 Lake PEB, 11/11 Morrison RBW, 11/20 Lake JWJ (median 12/6). Also see winter report.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) — [13 North, 21 South] Season high counts 9/16 Jackson (220) DWK.



Pine Grosbeak, 27 October, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Shawn Zierman.

Late north 10/21 Becker, Otter Tail and Polk JMJ, 10/26–27 Cook RBJ, DAB, 11/10 Clay JWH (median 11/7). Late south 10/21 Meeker, Renville HDD, 10/23 Wright DPG, 10/29 Kandiyohi RBW, 11/11 Goodhue JLO (median 11/8).

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) — [26 North, 44 South] Reported statewide in all regions. As always for this species, see winter report for late migrants and over-wintering birds.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) — All reports: 9/16 Jackson (1/2 mile north of C.R. 4 on S.R. 86) DWK, 9/28 Jackson (sections 17 and 20, Minnesota Twp; “their voices consisted of varied whistles, shrieks, short growls and some quite loud clacking sounds”) BJU, 10/12 Jackson (730th and S.R. 86 just north of C.R. 4) JCC.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) — [14 North, 23 South] Late north 9/15 Cass ALB, 9/29 Morrison DPG, 10/22 Beltrami BJU, 11/10 Lake PEB (median 9/22). Late south (but see winter report for additional south sightings) 11/3 Rice DAB, 11/17 Winona BAF.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) — [1 North, 11 South] Only north report 8/6 Traverse BJU. All south 8/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Meeker DMF, 8/3 Sherburne ASc, 8/6 Big Stone BJU, Sherburne PLJ, 8/7 Pipestone BJU, 8/9 Goodhue BRL, 8/10 Murray HHD, 8/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/22 Rock DAT, Washington LS, 8/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 8/24 Swift BJU, 8/28 Chippewa RBJ, DAC. Reports match typical pattern of end of August departure for this species.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) — [14 North, 28 South] Late north 8/31 Norman BJU, 9/2 Grant HHD, Wadena PJB, 9/6 Douglas HHD (median 9/14). Late south 8/30 Dodge RBW, 9/2 Renville RBW, 9/4 Steele NFT, 9/8 Fillmore NBO (median 9/24). Reports of this species ceased after the first week of September, both north and south, which is earlier than normal.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) — [14 North] Early north (median 10/19) 10/11 St. Louis KJB, 10/20 Wadena BJU, 10/21 Koochiching BJU, Lake of the Woods BJU, 10/22 Beltrami BJU, Lake SLF. Reports continued steadily throughout November and into the winter.

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) — [27 North, 33 South] Reported north throughout the season. Early south (median 8/28) 8/26 Fillmore NBO, 8/28 Chippewa RBJ, DAC, 9/1 Fillmore NBO.

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) — [23 North, 39 South] Reported statewide.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) — [6 North, 1 South] All north reports 8/2 St. Louis (H.R.B.O.) DAG, 10/14 St. Louis ABL, 10/22 Beltrami BJU, 10/27 St. Louis LS,

11/2 Cook DWK, Lake and St. Louis HHD, 11/3 St. Louis LS, KRE, JJS, 11/11 Lake SES, 11/12 Cass BAW, 11/16 Itasca DRM, St. Louis ERo, 11/17 Cook JLO, 11/19 Cass ALB. High count of 31 on 10/23 at H.R.B.O., where 150 reported for the season (EMG, KJB). Only south report 11/4 Olmsted JWH.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) — [6 North] All north 8/4 Cook JPE, 8/25 St. Louis ABL, 9/3 St. Louis (5, H.R.B.O.) EMG, KJB, 9/26 Lake JWJ, KRE, 10/20 St. Louis RPR, 10/21 Koochiching BJU, 10/26 Cook RBJ, 11/1 Lake RBJ, 11/13 St. Louis JCC, 11/18 Cass DPJ, Kittson LW.

Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) — [16 North, 7 South] Early north (median 10/16) 10/4 St. Louis DWT, 10/16 St. Louis KRE, 10/20 Cass BJU, 10/21 Beltrami, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods BJU, Cook RPR, St. Louis ABL, LS. All south 11/6 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Rice TFB, 11/8 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 11/16 Fillmore NBO, 11/20 Sherburne JBB, 11/22 Meeker DMF, Wabasha JWH, 11/23 Steele NBO. Peak number 186 at H.R.B.O. on 11/3 (EMG, KJB).

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) — [2 North] All north 11/4 Cook HHD, KRE, LS, 11/6 Cook CRM.

Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) — [23 North, 24 South] Seven reports in August; also reported throughout Sept–Nov. Early south **8/12** Ramsey RTB, 9/15 Le Sueur ChH.

American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) — [33 North, 49 South] Reported statewide and throughout entire season.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) — [10 North] Total of 21 reports across all north regions, with two from August and the rest from Oct–Nov.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) — [29 North, 48 South] Statewide.

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 TNe Theresa Nelson
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Abbreviations

C.P. County Park
 C.R. County Road
 D.N.R. Department of Natural Resources
 H.R.B.O. Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory
 N.C. Nature Center
 N.W.F.R. National Fish and Wildlife Refuge
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge
 P.R. Park Reserve
 S.N.A. Scientific and Natural Area
 S.P. State Park
 S.R. State Road
 S.R.A. State Recreation Area
 Twp. Township
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area
 W.P.A. Waterfowl Protection Area
 W.T.P. Wastewater Treatment Ponds

Birding by Hindsight

A Second Look at Hummingbirds

Kim R. Eckert

Well, some of you may be thinking, this won't take long. After all, you say, here in Minnesota we've got Ruby-throateds and that's it. Of course, you're 99% right, since it's the only hummingbird around breeding in the eastern half of the U. S. But if you take a second look at various state lists, other species turn up more frequently than you might have thought.

In all, 23 hummingbirds are included on the American Birding Association's list of species recorded north of Mexico. For our purposes, though, we're safe enough disregarding four of them: Bahama Woodstar (four Florida records), Cinnamon Hummingbird (single records from Arizona and New Mexico), Bumblebee Hummingbird (two dubious Arizona specimens from the 1800s), and Xantus's Hummingbird (three West Coast records). That leaves 19 species to consider here, all but a couple of them regularly recorded from the southwestern and western U.S. And of these, at least 16 have been seen in the eastern half of the U.S., with seven of them currently on the Minnesota list!

So this might take a while, since the potential is there for a lot more than just Ruby-throateds at your feeders. Indeed, one could reasonably argue that most of those 19 hummingbird species could actually occur here — after all, if a Green-breasted Mango can appear in Wisconsin or a White-eared Hummingbird in Michigan....! But before briefly looking at the likelihood and identification of the individual species, there are some general considerations to think about.



Season and Location

If you're looking for something different, don't think spring. This may seem like odd advice, but all the records of all six extralimital hummingbirds in Minnesota have been from June to December. Other temporal advice would be to consider that normally Ruby-throateds don't arrive here until early May, and by mid-October the latest ones are gone. Accordingly, it would indeed be worth a second look at any hummingbird you encounter in April or from the last half of October on. And keep looking even into December if late fall has been mild; there are no fewer than four non-Ruby-throated hummingbird records that month!

Location, location, location? Feeders, feeders, feeders! As might be expected, hummingbird feeders have a virtual monopoly on all the rarity records. (I can remember only one record — a Magnificent — where the bird was attracted to flowers and insects rather than a feeder.) So unless you want to spend your birding time staring at feeders, the best place for you to be for seeing that odd species would actually be by your phone or computer — waiting for that report of a stake-out to come in from some puzzled or surprised homeowner.

Geographically, even though some rarities have appeared at northern Minnesota feeders, the southern part of the state would seem to have an edge. As mentioned earlier, the potential for stray western hummingbirds turning up in the eastern U.S. seems almost endless, but that potential drops off as you go farther

north, with Canadian provinces especially disadvantaged. Northwestern Minnesota might be the least likely place for something good to turn up; consider that adjacent North Dakota and Manitoba have just two vagrant hummingbirds on their lists (Rufous and Broad-tailed).

Identification Caveats

Adult male hummingbirds present few identification problems; you'll see that almost all the ID issues mentioned below involve juveniles and females. Still, be aware that the color of a male's throat (a.k.a. gorget) is a function of iridescence, so that what should be red or purple will often appear quite black if the bird is shaded or at the wrong angle with the sun. The same applies to a male's crown color, which is another key ID feature on some species. Be sure to note as well that pollen from flowers can discolor a feeding hummingbird's gorget or crown, resulting in confusion or even misidentification.

Unfortunately, the thorny issue of hybridization does exist among hummingbirds, and this could certainly lead to inaccurate or unresolved IDs. While this problem would obviously be encountered most often farther west, it's still something to consider here, especially if that apparent stray Anna's or Rufous doesn't look right. Fortunately, that other vexing problem for listers — possible escapes — isn't much of a problem since the number of hummingbirds kept in captivity is almost negligible. (But see below about a possible Buff-bellied in Iowa proving to be another species escaped from captivity.)

Other Identification Hints

My best advice would be to take time to study all the Ruby-throateds you encounter, especially the juveniles and females. You will then be better prepared to detect another species when something about that hummingbird doesn't quite fit the Ruby-throated norm. Also, while discussing call notes here would be impractical and beyond the scope of this article, practice listening to a Ruby-throated's chip note — which I would describe as high-

pitched, squeaky, almost like a soft Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Then, should another species turn up and start vocalizing, its different call notes might attract your attention and lead to a correct ID.

Two tools will often prove useful, even crucial, when identifying hummingbirds. One is a camera, especially a video camera. Since the differences between some species are subtle and hard for the human eye to detect on that constantly moving target hovering at a feeder, it may only be through photos or stills extracted from a video that an accurate ID can be made.

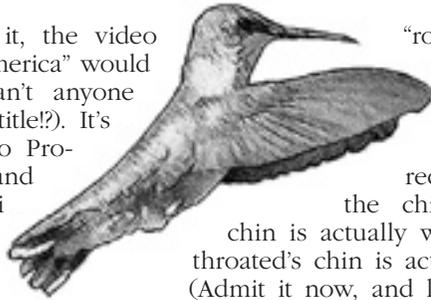
The other tool is less often employed, but since some IDs (e.g., Rufous vs. Allen's) can defy even the best photos, a bander's nets might become necessary. Yes, there is the issue of possible stress on a netted hummingbird, but if a bander is unable to access a feeder with a problematic bird, the homeowner should be prepared for his/her hummingbird to remain unidentified.

References

"According to Hoyle" is the expression used to refer to games properly played by the rules. Similarly, this article's identification guidelines might be described as "According to Howell," since much of this information has been gleaned from Steve Howell's excellent reference published by Academic Press, *Hummingbirds of North America: The Photographic Guide*. I certainly recommend this book to birders seeking help with the ID issues not fully covered in this article.

Another recommended hummingbird reference is in the Peterson Field Guides series, written by Sheri Williamson: *A Field Guide to Hummingbirds of North America*. I chose the Howell guide primarily because he is a known authority on many difficult ID issues, his book includes more thorough descriptions of vocalizations, and because his book's photos are larger and of more consistent quality and utility. The photos in Williamson's guide are smaller and sometimes only marginal in quality. Note, however, that her book's range maps are superior to Howell's.

Though I haven't seen it, the video "Hummingbirds of North America" would also prove useful (but can't anyone come up with an original title!?). It's part of the Peregrine Video Productions series, written and narrated by Jon Dunn, Sheri Williamson, and John Vanderpoel, and it includes slow-motion footage, frame-by-frame stills, and call notes.



"rose-throated" (not ruby-red), and note carefully the chin color just below the bill: the rose-red on Anna's includes

the chin, a Broad-tailed's

chin is actually white, while a Ruby-throated's chin is actually broadly black. (Admit it now, and let's have a show of hands: how many of you never noticed this on a Ruby-throated?!)

Finally, the Louisiana Ornithological Society includes a good two-part article on hummingbird ID on its website — <http://losbird.org/los_news_188_99nov2.htm#7> and <http://losbird.org/los_news_189_00feb2.htm>.

Females/juveniles are another matter, and separating them from other species (especially Black-chinneds, Anna's, and Costa's) can be challenging, beyond the scope of this brief account, and readers should consult Howell or Williamson for complete ID information before claiming to see one of those three. There are, however, three basic ID points to consider with birds in this plumage:

Following are brief accounts on the distribution and identification of those 19 hummingbird species mentioned above. Seven of these have already occurred in Minnesota, while the others have at least some potential of appearing as a first state record at your feeders some year. They are presented more or less in the order of their likelihood, those at the end with probably little chance of straying in this direction (and, consequently, these tend to have shorter accounts). Note that "East" below refers to the eastern half of the U.S./Canada, i.e., from Manitoba, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas (excluding Big Bend and vicinity) east.

1) Though I have not often noticed this on Ruby-throateds, there can be a buffy or rusty wash on the flanks. (Black-chinneds, by the way, are in the same *Archilochus* genus and can also show this color.) It is not as bright or as extensive as on a Calliope or a *Selasphorus* (i.e., Rufous, Allen's, or Broad-tailed) female/juvenile, and if visible it should serve to preclude a *Calypte* hummingbird (Anna's or Costa's), which would lack any such color.

I. Species on Minnesota List

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

This, of course, is the default hummingbird in Minnesota, at least from May to October, and the only one most birders will ever see here. Consequently, the first question to ask yourself when confronted with a possible stray should always be, "Why isn't it a Ruby-throated?"

2) A clear look at a Ruby-throated's folded primaries can eliminate a possible Anna's or Costa's. Its inner primaries are narrower and contrast with the broader outer primaries, while on an Anna's/Costa's all the primaries look basically similar in width with no abrupt difference between the inner and outer primaries. (See photos in Howell for illustrations of this feature.) As might be expected, though, the Black-chinned shares the Ruby-throated's primary pattern.

When seen well, adult males present few ID problems since there are only two similar "red-throated" species: Anna's and Broad-tailed. These, however, are actually

3) Contrary to some ID references, which claim Ruby-throateds always have green crowns while the Black-chinned's is duller and grayer, there is no consistent difference between their crown colors.

Therefore, an *Archilochus* in Minnesota with a dull gray crown is still far more likely to be a Ruby-throated.

Rufous Hummingbird

Here is the most likely non-Ruby-throated hummingbird to show up here, since there are at least a dozen Minnesota records (all between July and December), plus a few others classified as “*Selasphorus*, sp.” (i.e., the small possibility of Allen’s Hummingbird could not be ruled out). Indeed, this is by far the most likely vagrant hummingbird throughout the East, with only Quebec and Prince Edward Island apparently lacking any records!

Males with complete rufous backs and fully — or at least partly — red throats are safely separable from male Allen’s, which “never” have all-rufous backs. Unfortunately, though, an occasional adult male Rufous can show an entirely green back and thus easily be mistaken for an Allen’s.

The real Rufous vs. Allen’s problem, of course, involves females/juveniles, and this remains the most difficult of all the hummingbird ID challenges. In fact, even the best photographs sometimes aren’t good enough to safely determine the identity of some individuals, since the only solid difference between these two involves the precise shape and pattern of the tail feathers — features which may only be visible on banded birds and specimens.

A Rufous may certainly be more likely in Minnesota than an Allen’s, but there are enough records of the latter in the East that likelihood alone can’t safely lead to a positive ID. Obviously, you’ll need to consult Howell or Williamson for analysis of this issue, but you’ll find even the most authoritative references will fail to determine an identification in some Rufous/Allen’s cases.

Anna’s Hummingbird

With four Minnesota records (all during October–December) and records in at least 12 other eastern states/provinces,

including nearby South Dakota and Wisconsin, this species will probably reappear here. And if it’s an adult male, the ID probably won’t be daunting; see the Ruby-throated section for comments on the Anna’s gorget and chin colors relative to Ruby-throateds and Broad-taileds. Note, though, that a male Anna’s crown iridescence is often harder to see or more limited than its gorget color, making it then resemble a Broad-tailed.

Naturally, a female/juvenile Anna’s is more difficult, but see the Ruby-throated account for comments on the Anna’s (and Costa’s) lack of rusty flanks and more uniform width of its primaries. Separation of Anna’s from Costa’s is equally challenging, but there are some useful differences. The Costa’s tail is shorter, with its folded wing tips reaching or extending beyond the tail tip; only the Calliope has such a relatively short tail. A Costa’s throat and underparts tend to look whiter and relatively unmarked; an Anna’s throat is usually more spotted with patches of color, and its underparts (especially the flanks) typically appear washed with gray or even green.

Green Violetear

Even though this Neotropical species does not breed north of Mexico, surprisingly there are two summer Minnesota records, nearby sightings in Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ontario, plus records from no fewer than ten other states in the East. Refreshingly, the ID of this species is relatively easy, with males, females, and juveniles similar and distinctive in appearance. While its mix of blue and green colors may be reminiscent of a Broad-billed, there are enough obvious differences between these two species to preclude confusion.

Calliope Hummingbird

The sole appearance of this species in Minnesota (in November–December) seemed surprising at the time, although South Dakota has a record, as do at least 12 other Eastern states. An adult male’s unique gorget pattern alone is certainly

diagnostic, but females/juveniles are more difficult. As mentioned above, its short tail length is a feature matched only by a Costa's, but also note its blunt, squared-off, less rounded shape compared to most other species. A Calliope also shows some rust on its flanks and under tail coverts, suggestive of a *Selasphorus*, but look again at the tail; unlike a *Selasphorus*, it shows little or no rufous and often appears all black.

One last diagnostic feature worth noting on adult females (but not on juveniles of either sex): try to see that their white lores extend forward and above the base of the upper mandible, a subtle difference apparently shown by no other species.

Magnificent Hummingbird

There are three Minnesota records, all in summer, which were indeed unexpected, given there are apparently only records from adjacent South Dakota plus five other states in the East. So it may be awhile before another appears here, though it should again attract immediate attention when it does — especially if it's a magnificently plumaged male. And the superior size alone of a female precludes all other species except Blue-throated. But then, note the relative lack of white on its greenish tail (Blue-throateds have huge white corners on a bluish tail), and usually Magnificent has just a single white spot behind the eye (compared with two longer stripes typically behind the Blue-throated's eye).

Costa's Hummingbird

An even more unexpected vagrant was the male remaining for two months (September–November) at a Minnesota feeder a few years back: after all, while Costa's had been recorded in South Dakota, otherwise it apparently has never wandered east of Kansas and Texas.

An adult male Costa's purple crown and elongated gorget is a unique combination, but when the iridescence is not apparent, a distinctive white stripe between crown and gorget will typically be obvious. As for the ID of females/juve-

niles, see the Ruby-throated and Anna's paragraphs which refer to the Costa's whiter flanks and uniform primary width (compared to Ruby-throated and Black-chinned), and its shorter tail and relatively plain throat and underparts (compared to Anna's). One other subtle feature to look for is the Costa's straighter and more uniform black line through the lores; on an Anna's, the loreal line tends to be more irregular in shape and continuity.

II. Most Likely First State Records

Black-chinned Hummingbird

Although there has yet to be a Minnesota record, South Dakota and Ontario have recorded Black-chinneds, as have at least 12 other states in the East. A record here of this species would thus seem inevitable, and perhaps a female/juvenile or two has already appeared but escaped detection, given its close similarity to a Ruby-throated. As previously mentioned, both have inner primaries narrower than the outers, both sometimes show buff or rusty flanks, and both can show either greenish or grayish crowns.

While separating the two *Archilochus* females/juveniles may require some additional study in Howell or Williamson, try to see the following features if you see a suspected Black-chinned: 1) the blunt, wide, and more rounded tip of the outermost primary (narrower and more pointed on Ruby-throated); 2) the more pointed or "nipple-shaped" tail feathers (more rounded tips to the rectrices on Ruby-throated); and 3) usually a slightly longer and somewhat decurved bill (perhaps only marginally different from a Ruby-throated, but often distinguishable from the relatively shorter, straighter bills of an Anna's or Costa's).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird

This is another good candidate for a first state record, with Manitoba, North and South Dakota, and at least eight other eastern states listing this species. As mentioned earlier, adult male Broad-taileds may bear a resemblance to Ruby-throat-

eds and Anna's, but see above for their differences in throat and chin colors. In direct flight, the adult male's outer primaries produce a loud, shrill, high-pitched trill which is unique. (Females and juveniles, though, don't produce this sound.) But keep in mind that all hummingbirds can hum (well, duh!), though these sounds produced by the wings of other species are never as distinctively high-pitched or as loud as the Broad-tailed's.

Females/juveniles, with rusty color on their sides, flanks, under tail coverts, and tails, resemble other members of the *Selasphorus* genus (Rufous and Allen's). But this color is generally paler and more limited in extent and, unlike Rufous and Allen's, they should show no rust on the upper tail coverts. Note as well that the Broad-tailed's tail is not only longer than on a Rufous or Allen's, but it is also less tapered, blunter, and more squared-off with short central rectrices — somewhat like the shape of the much shorter-tailed Calliope.

Broad-billed Hummingbird

This colorful southeastern Arizona specialty might seem quite out-of-place at a Minnesota feeder, but there is good potential for one to stray here, considering there are records in South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario, and three other states in the East. The blue-and-green adult male with its red bill would certainly attract even a beginner's attention, but females/juveniles could also be figured out given a decent view: these have a unique combination of some red at the base of the lower mandible, a white stripe behind the eye setting off a dark cheek patch, and a blue or bluish-green tail. It might be tempting to mistake one of these for a White-eared, but the "ears" of that species will always look whiter, wider, and more cleanly delineated.

III. Less Likely Possibilities

Allen's Hummingbird

Though perhaps less likely here than a Rufous, the Allen's has still been docu-

mented in at least eight eastern states, with Kansas the closest one to Minnesota that I'm aware of. Consider as well the real possibility that an Allen's or two may have already occurred here, but was understandably passed off as a Rufous. As pointed out earlier, even full adult male Allen's/Rufous hummingbirds can present difficulties — to say nothing of females/juveniles, which often prove hopelessly indecipherable unless examined in the hand. So, please, let's move on to something easier to figure out, like a hummingbird in Iowa from Peru....

Buff-bellied Hummingbird

This South Texas specialty, as unlikely as it might seem, just might wander in this direction eventually, given the records from six states east of Texas, with Arkansas apparently the closest it's come to Minnesota. There was almost an Iowa record, though, in 1998, when one was tentatively reported at a Des Moines feeder. It was eventually learned this bird had escaped from a nearby botanical garden, and its identity proved to be a species from Peru: the *Amazilia* Hummingbird (*Amazilia amazilia*). This anomaly aside, however, male, female, and juvenile Buff-bellieds are all similar and distinctive enough to cause few ID problems.

IV. "Impossibilities"

Green-breasted Mango

So, what is this, a fruit or a bird? And even if it is a bird — one only breeding from Mexico south, no less — what does it have to do with Minnesota? With only a handful of Texas records and an odd North Carolina occurrence north of the Mexican border, there never seemed any potential for one to wander this way. All true, perhaps, until one had the audacity to appear last fall at a Wisconsin feeder and, in the process, to destroy our preconceptions of what was possible here in the Midwest. At least this hummingbird does not add ID insult to ego injury, since its plumages are distinctive enough to cause little confusion.

White-eared Hummingbird

With this local specialty hard enough to find in southeastern Arizona, it would seem to be another “impossible” vagrant in the Midwest, with eastern records only in Texas and Mississippi. But then one showed up in Michigan a couple falls ago: an event as improbable as, say, a mango appearing in Wisconsin! This species’ plumages are similar and unique enough to present few ID difficulties, although, as mentioned above, there is some potential for mistaking a female Broad-billed for a White-eared.

V. Least Likely Possibilities

Blue-throated Hummingbird

Admittedly, the odds for this or any of the next four species ever showing in Minnesota are pretty slim, but I’ll bet they said the same thing about a mango in Wisconsin! So, who knows? Anyway, Blue-throateds have wandered east as far as eastern Texas and Louisiana, and at least the ID is straightforward enough, with only the Magnificent (see above) looking somewhat similar.

Violet-crowned Hummingbird

As far as I know, East Texas is about as far as one of these hummingbirds has ever made it, so the potential seems even lower for this species to wander up to the Midwest. But the identification of this striking species is pretty easy, with males, females, and juveniles all similar in plumage, and note it’s the only hummingbird that’s entirely white below.

Lucifer Hummingbird

The odds are shrinking even more with the third hummingbird in this section, with apparently no Lucifer records east of the Big Bend area. Should a male defy the odds, however, look for its unique combination of purple throat, decurved bill, and long forked tail. (The only other purple-throated species would be the Costa’s, but that also has a purple crown and a shorter tail.) Females/juveniles have similarly

distinctive bills and tails and have varying amounts of buff on the underparts, especially on the sides or center of the breast, while the buff that appears on some other species is limited to the flanks and under tail coverts.

Berylline Hummingbird

This is another species with no records in the east, which is not too surprising given that it’s barely regular in southeastern Arizona. When seen well, its ID presents little problem, with males, females, and juveniles all similar in appearance. About the only similar species would be Buff-bellied, but a Berylline differs by having little or no red on the bill, a buff wing patch, and a dark, non-rufous tail and rump.

Plain-capped Startbroad

A barely regular southeastern Arizona rarity, this is yet another hummingbird with no precedence for appearing in the East. Should one ignore the range maps, though, it would stand out in a crowd with its unique white patch on the lower back, broad white malar stripe, and relatively long and straight bill. And if an adult male, a rosy-red throat patch would be evident.

Well, sorry to put you through all this, especially those readers formerly content with just enjoying the hummingbirds at their feeders and assuming no identification headaches would be involved. Now, thanks to me, you’ll have to start worrying about pollen discolorations, chip note differences, inner primary widths, rectrix shapes, loreal patterns, and all the rest. And isn’t it hard enough just to see the bird in the first place as it zips by — how are you supposed to examine its lores?! (It’s almost enough to make you yearn for the good old days of dowitcher ID and their loreal angles.)

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An Old Northern Saw-whet Owl Nesting Record from Southeast Minnesota

Karla A. Kinstler

In the summer of 2007, Arlayne Fremling of Winona told me about a brood of Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) she and her husband, Winona State University Professor Emeritus of Biology Dr. Cal Fremling, raised in their garage in the mid-1980s. The Fremlings provided photographs and slides to verify that these owls were indeed Northern Saw-whets. Although the exact date of the nesting was not recorded, a slide of the adult in the nest box is dated March 1986.

Dr. Fremling recalled the following details about the nesting:

The owls nested in a Wood Duck house approximately 15 feet above the ground in a black cherry tree about 50 feet behind their house in Gilmore Valley, just outside the city of Winona in Winona County. The tree was at the edge of a hardwood lot with a row of Norway pines on a steep, east-facing slope, with the nest box entrance hole also facing east. Each time Dr. Fremling walked under the tree and knocked on it, a saw-whet owl would pop its head out of the entrance hole of the nest box. Despite the proximity to their house, the Fremlings never heard the owls vocalize.

One day, the Fremlings' golden retriever came home with a dead adult saw-whet owl in its mouth. Not knowing at that time that both adults will feed the young, they assumed the owlets in the nest box were orphaned and starving. They received verbal permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to raise the owlets, which they did in their garage.

The four owlets were fed mice and ground beef mixed with feathers. They were so tame Dr. Fremling took them to several area grade schools for educational purposes.

Their orange breasts and bright white "eyebrow" markings served as camouflage even in the garage. Dr. Fremling recalls not being able to locate one of the owlets one day. He searched and searched until he finally noticed it on a shelf, blending in easily between cans of spray paint.

When the owlets began to fly well, the Fremlings released them by opening the garage door to allow them to leave on their own and offered food in the garage until they no longer came back to eat it.

No other birds of any kind were observed nesting in this Wood Duck box either before or after the saw-whet owls.

Cannings (1993) shows southeast Minnesota as part of the year-round range of the Northern Saw-whet Owl, but notes that the limits of breeding and non-breeding birds aren't accurately known and are likely to vary from year to year.

Roberts (1932) wrote that Northern Saw-whet Owls were "a permanent resident, breeding throughout the state, including the groves on the prairies." Janssen (1987) considered them to occur rarely in southeastern Minnesota during the summer season, noting that breeding season observations have been made in Winona County (such as Johnson 1981), but breeding behavior had not been documented.

The most southern documented nesting records of the Northern Saw-whet Owl in Minnesota have occurred in the Twin Cities metro region: Hennepin County (Hitman 1988, Kessen and Svingen 2007), Ramsey County (Campbell 1978), and Washington County (Hertzel 1999). The Winona County nest described in this paper is approximately 100 miles southeast of these records, making it by far the most southern nesting record in the state of Minnesota.



Northern Saw-whet Owl chicks, spring 1986, Gilmore Valley, Winona County. Photos by Arlayne Fremling.

John Idzikowski considers the current breeding range of Northern Saw-whet Owls in Wisconsin to be essentially north of a line from northern Brown County to the west (pers. comm.). There are two nest records from south of this line before 1900: one in Jefferson County and another in Sauk County (Robbins 1991). The most recent southern Wisconsin nest observation is from Fred Leshner who has a record of two dead and four live young saw-whet owls found in a nest cavity in a tree that was cut down 29 May 1970 in Montello, Marquette County, Wisconsin (pers. comm.). This location would be nearly due east, but slightly south, of Winona, Minnesota.

The Iowa Ornithologists Union has no nest records for this species, but Kent and Dinsmore (1996) cite two records when saw-whet owls were heard calling in Allamakee County in northeast Iowa in May 1988.

Thanks to Dr. Cal and Arlayne Fremling for providing details, photographs, and a slide to document this nest record.

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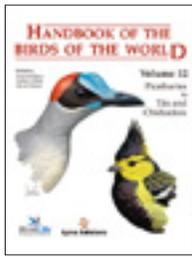
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BOOK REVIEWS

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD, VOLUME 12.



Picathartes to Tits and Chickadees. J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, and D. Christie, editors. 2007. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. 816 pp. \$265.

This and previous volumes are available from Lynx Edicions, c/o

Postal Express & Fulfillment Center, Inc., 265 Sunrise Highway suite 1 #252, Rockville Centre, New York 11570, or through the internet (<http://www.hbw.com>); inquiries can be sent by email (lynx@hbw.com).

This volume continues with the Passeriformes and includes 15 families: Picathartidae (picathartes), Timaliidae (babblers), Paradoxornithidae (parrotbills), Pomatostomidae (Australasian babblers), Orthonychidae (logrunners), Eupetidae (jewel-babblers and allies), Pachycephalidae (whistlers), Petroicidae (Australasian robins), Maluridae (fairy-wrens), Dasyornithidae (bristlebirds), Acanthizidae (thornbills), Epthianuridae (Australian chats), Neosittidae (sittellas), Climacteridae (Australasian treecreepers), and Paridae (tits and chickadees). In all likelihood, these ain't yer mamma's birds. Seriously, this volume contains families that I've never heard of, in no small part because most were not considered full families until relatively recently. These are mostly birds of the Old World, with Australasia especially well represented. Most of these families are small; only the Timaliidae is large, at 309 species. All the rest have fewer than 70 species, from Acanthizidae (63 species) and Pachycephalidae (56 species) to Or-

thonychidae and Dasyornithidae (3 species each) to Picathartidae and Neosittidae (2 species each). There are nevertheless full family accounts for each.

As with all of the previous volumes, this is a large, heavy folio, well printed and illustrated. It has 56 color plates, 436 photographs, 638 distribution maps, and about 4,000 cited references. Twelve authors and eight artists have contributed to this volume. The 45-page Foreword on "Fossil Birds" by Kevin J. Caley is the best recent review of this relatively rapidly developing area that I have seen. A note in the Introduction reminds us that 95–100% of the literature cited has been consulted, but that some of the references have been included without being examined because it has been thought that they might be useful for the reader wishing to read about a specific subject in greater detail. This is unusual for literature cited. Internet references are also now being included, though sparingly and with caution.

The family accounts, as usual, are authoritative introductions that have been richly illustrated with photographs. The photographs often show bird behavior, and many are excellent. Indeed, the images of adult Crimson Chats (*Epthianura tricolor*) feeding young (pp. 622), of a Coal Tit (*Periparus ater*) on a fungus-laden branch (p. 676), and of a Common Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) feeding a brood of seven young in a wood cavity (p. 702) bring a considerable degree of art to the documentation of birds and bird behavior. Being unfamiliar with most of the species treated, I cannot judge the accuracy of the plates, but in general they are also of high quality, and for those species with which I do have experience (e.g., in the Timalii-

dae) the plates appear to be very good to excellent.

The series continues to use a citation style that I have complained about before, that of omitting citations of the primary literature within the text of the family and species accounts and bundling them in a very terse fashion (author and year) at the end of each account; the 42-page section of References, of course, provides the full citations. In other stylistic matters the editors have stayed with their excellent formula: each species account (in smaller font than the family accounts) is highly informative, has a small and detailed distribution map, and is given in numeric

order following the plate upon which it has been illustrated. The plates are interspersed as full pages on even-numbered pages (left side) throughout the species accounts.

In summary, this is another excellent volume in the series, which is projected to be 16 volumes when completed. I can continue to recommend this and previous volumes to all serious students of birds. Prepublication and multi-volume discounts are available.

Kevin Winker, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775.

Notes of Interest



MINNESOTA'S FIRST JULY ARCTIC TERN — At 11:45 A.M. on 14 July 2007, one of the authors (Svingen) found an adult Arctic Tern flying off the tip of the Ruby Red Peninsula, which juts eastward into East Pool at Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge in Lac Qui Parle County. He radioed the other author (Chu), and soon both of us were looking at the tern.

For the next 25 minutes, the tern stayed near the tip of the peninsula, and during that time viewing conditions were good. The position of the sun was not an issue, as cloud cover was 100%. In addition, the tern was about 300 yards away, a distance that is not excessive when using (as each of us was) a spotting scope with the ocular lens set at 60X.

The tern was in flight for most of the observation period, and when it was flying with its forked tail folded, such that the outer rectrices were drawn together like the jaws of a scissors, it looked very long-tailed. In contrast, its fully retracted neck was short. Thus in flight there was an exaggerated disparity between the “amount of bird” behind the wings (a lot) and before the wings (only a little).

The tern's bill was dark red. When the bird was in flight the red looked uniform, but when it was standing the red looked darker at the extreme tip.

The forehead, the crown down to the eyes, and the hindneck were black, forming a black cap; conversely, the rest of the head was pale gray, except for the upper portion of the ear-coverts — the part of the face just below the black cap — which was white. The gray-versus-white contrast was weak when the bird was standing, but was stronger when the bird flew, so that the flying bird appeared to have a well-defined white streak just below the cap.

The pale gray of the lower head graded into the medium gray of the breast, belly, and flanks, and in turn the latter contrasted with the white vent region and under tail-coverts.

The underwings were wholly whitish, except for a thin black trailing edge to the under-primaries. The black trailing edge seemed thinner and more sharply defined than its counterpart in a Common or Forster's tern would be. However, we couldn't test this impression because no Common or Forster's were present for comparison. More importantly, from below, all of the primaries and secondaries were translucent, admitting light despite the cloudy conditions; indeed, the translucence of the remiges from below was seen every time the wings were raised (e.g., during each upstroke).

The back, scapulars, and upper wing-coverts were the same medium gray as the underbody; the uppersides of the remiges were also gray, but were very slightly paler. Critically, the gray primaries were essentially uniform, with no darker wedge as would be seen in a Common Tern upperwing; only the outer web of the outermost primary was darker, forming a narrow dark line on the leading edge of the hand.

Finally, the rump, upper tail-coverts, and tail were white, with the sides of the tail having very narrow dark borders.

At 12:10 the tern flew to the northeast and disappeared, and, though we did not see it subsequently, it was reported again from East Pool on 15 July.

This Arctic Tern is just the third Minnesota record away from Lake Superior. The first was in Wilkin County on 15 May 2004 (Svingen 2004), and the second was in Lake of the Woods County on 15 June 2007 (Kessen and Svingen 2008).

This is also the first July record for Minnesota, but note that there are 11 additional July records from the Upper Midwest: one from southern Ontario (James 1984), one from Ohio (Peterjohn and Tumblin 1980), five from Michigan (Chu 1992, Whaley 1993, Chu 1995, Kielb 1995, Byrne 2001), one from Indiana (Jackson 1993), two from Illinois (Brock 1992, Johnson 2002), and one from Wisconsin (Mueller 1989). Given these other records, one could argue that an Arctic Tern in July in Minnesota is not completely unexpected. Moreover, the Minnesota record pertains to an adult in alternate plumage, as do nine of the additional records mentioned above. However, the Minnesota record is unquestionably atypical in one respect: for the Upper Midwest, it is only the second July record away from the Great Lakes.

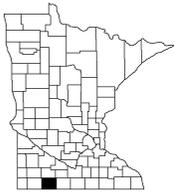
The authors are grateful to Steve Dinsmore (Iowa), Jim Frank (Wisconsin), Don Gorney (Indiana), Ned Keller and Bill Whan (Ohio), Rudolf Koes (Manitoba), Ron Martin (North Dakota), Jeff Palmer (South Dakota), Doug Stotz (Illinois), and Alan Wormington (Ontario) for providing information about July Arctic Tern records (or the lack thereof) in their respective states or provinces. **Philip C. Chu, Department of Biology, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN 56321, and Peder H. Svingen, 2602 E. 4th Street, Duluth, MN 55812.**

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FIRST DEFINITIVE RECORD OF A MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD FOR MINNESOTA —



On the morning of 2 September 2007 we were birding the west shoreline of Spirit Lake in Dickinson County, Iowa. At 8:05 A.M. we discovered an adult female Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) working the north shore of the lake in the vicinity of Mini-Wakan State Park. Knowing that this would be a significant record for Minnesota, we carefully watched the bird in case it drifted into adjacent Jackson County, Minnesota, a mere 200 m to the north. Finally, between 9:00 and 9:15 A.M., the bird made two short sorties

north of the east-west paved road that lies just south of the Iowa-Minnesota state line, no doubt aided by the strong southerly winds. This placed the bird barely in Jackson County. It then returned to the Iowa portion of Spirit Lake and did not venture into Minnesota again during its 3-day stay (Dinsmore and Gilliam 2007).

The bird was immediately recognizable as a frigatebird because of its large size, long, forked tail, and long, narrow wings with a distinct “crook” at the bend. From beneath, the flight silhouette was distinctive — long, skinny wings with a noticeable forward extension at the bend (forming a “crook”), wingtips swept backwards, long, folded tail, and a small head with a long bill extending forward beyond the wings. We estimated that the bird’s wingspan was ~2.5 times that of a Ring-billed Gull. The bill was long, straight, appeared pale gray with a hint of yellow, and had a distinct hook at the tip. The head was solid black and separated from the white breast by a sharp line of demarcation. The breast was white with wavy white lines extending onto the dark axillars. From below, the line of demarcation between the white breast and black belly was U-shaped with the open end of the U towards the tail. The remainder of the underparts was black. The mantle and upperwings were also black except that the pale tips to the secondary coverts created a narrow pale line extending from the posterior base of the wing to the forward bend in the wing. The rectrices were black and the outer rectrices extended >1 foot beyond the central rectrices. The bird’s left outer rectrix was broken and an estimated 3–4” shorter than the right outer rectrix. The legs appeared very short and were always tucked closely against the bird’s body. The feet and lower portion of the legs were pale pink. On the basis of plumage characteristics, we concluded this was an adult female Magnificent Frigatebird.

We spent most of the observation period trying to age, sex, and identify the bird (Harrison 1987), knowing that frigatebird identification is often challenging. However, this bird was pretty easy. The combination of large size, pattern of white on the breast, dark face, wavy white lines extending onto the axillars, and bill and foot color safely eliminate all other frigatebird, especially Great and Lesser (the only other two species we consider remotely possible in the upper Midwest).



Magnificent Frigatebird, 2 September 2007, Jackson County, Minnesota / Dickinson County, Iowa. Photo by Stephen J. Dinsmore.

This represents the first confirmed record of a Magnificent Frigatebird for Minnesota, although there are three previous records that probably pertain to this species. Previous records of *Fregata* sp. include an adult male on 22 September 1988 at Lake Itasca, Clearwater County (Eckert 1990), an adult male on 1 October 1988 at Acacia Cemetery, Dakota County (Tustison 1989), and a female on 19–21 September off the Echo Trail in northern St. Louis County (Lerch 2006). We note that the first two records were initially accepted as Magnificent Frigatebird on the basis of probability (Eckert 1989; Eckert 1990; Eckert 1993) but later not accepted (Svingen 2007). **Stephen J. Dinsmore, 5711 Valley Road, Ames, IA 50014; ²Jay Gilliam, 1004 Meadow Drive, Norwalk, IA 50211.**

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THIRD MINNESOTA RECORD OF ROSS'S GULL — The Mississippi River in South



St. Paul in the vicinity of Pig's Eye Lake often has concentrations of waterfowl and gulls in early winter. On a trip there on 15 December 2007, I scanned the river from the pedestrian overpass at Grand and Hardman avenues (Dakota County). The river was mostly open to the east and south but ice-covered to the north. Resting at the edge of the ice about 600 m to the north was a small group of gulls, mostly Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) and two Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*), plus one that was much smaller. With my 30x spotting scope I could

see a faint pinkish tinge on its breast. I walked north on the levee until I was within 125 m, where I confirmed what I had suspected — this was a Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*). I spent the next 40 min. (from 10:50 to 11:30) observing it through scope and binoculars and taking field notes. During this time it mostly rested, preened, and stood on the ice, but it also flew in a meandering path a couple of times for several minutes. At 11:20, it flew directly upriver (north) another 800 m and landed on the ice near a small area of open water. I left at 11:40 to post the sighting to MOU-net, but before departing, I looked one more time from the overpass with my scope but was unable to see the gull. Fortunately, when I returned at 1:30 the gull was back resting on the ice at about its original location, and I continued observing it and taking notes; I was also able to take a few digiscoped photos. Within half an hour, other observers began arriving and I estimated that about 15–20 others were also able to see it until 2:50 P.M., when it flew downriver and out of sight around a bend. An hour later, it was relocated by Anthony Hertzell about 3 km farther south along the river just beyond of the I-494 bridge, where a small group of observers continued watching it until 4:50 (sunset was at 4:32). It appeared to be roosting on the ice for the evening, but one observer (Paul Hurtado) who remained behind after the others left saw it leave the ice and begin foraging, and he reported on MOU-net that at 5:00 it flew south downriver and out of sight. That was the last sighting of this bird, despite intensive searching by many the following day downriver at least to Hastings. Weather conditions during the observation were very good for the season — clear, calm, with temperatures from 5 to 15° F.

Identification of this distinctive gull was straightforward. It was an adult in basic plumage, and its small size precluded all but a few other gull species (e.g., Little Gull, *L. minutus*, and Bonaparte's Gull, *L. philadelphia*). It was notably smaller than the nearby Ring-billed Gulls, and even smaller than the Rock Pigeons (*Columba livia*) that landed on the ice nearby. Its slender black bill was also proportionally tiny — exposed culmen length was less than the distance from the front of the eye to the base of the bill at the forehead. Underparts were white, with pale gray on the sides of the upper breast and a faint pinkish tinge. Its nape and crown were pale gray and the face was white except for dark gray smudges in front of and below the eye and an isolated vertical dark gray mark behind the eye on the auriculars. Eyes were dark while the legs, toes, and webs were deep red. The pale gray upperparts were estimated to be about the same shade as that of Glaucous Gull (*L. hyperboreus*), although no individuals of that species were present for comparison. On the standing gull, the exposed primaries were darker gray, somewhat darker than the upperparts of Herring Gulls, without white. The outer web of the outer (tenth) primary was charcoal, but this was inconspicuous and visible only on close inspection; this thin line was the only black in the wing. The unmarked white tail was wedge-shaped and graduated, with the central rectrices longer than adjacent ones, a trait unique among gulls. Tail shape was seen well while the gull was flying and also while preening. In flight the wings were relatively narrow and pointed, tern-like, and the underwing was mostly uniformly gray, somewhat darker than the upper wing but not black. The upper wing surface was gray without contrasting pattern, but with a narrow white trailing edge on the secondaries and inner primaries.



Ross's Gull, 15 December 2007, South St. Paul, Dakota County. Photo by Bruce A. Fall.

I watched this gull for over two hours total at the initial Hardman/Grand avenues levee location. Most of this time (all but about ten min.) it was resting or standing on the ice near the edge of open water. I saw it fly at least five times: once upriver about 800 m where it landed on the ice, several times for up to a few minutes each as it flew about the open water east of the dike (some 125–400 m away), and finally as it headed south and out of sight at 2:50. During my observations, about five times one or more Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) flew over, which caused the other gulls (about 100 Herring and 2 Ring-billed), both on the ice and in the water, to take flight. Each time, the Ross's Gull did not leave the ice, and was the only non-flying gull remaining. The other gulls eventually settled back down each time, and some of them landed near the Ross's Gull. It was my impression that the Ross's Gull was not purposely associating with any of the larger gulls — the association appeared to be coincidental and each of its periods of flight did not appear to be influenced by the actions of the other gulls. When it flew 800 m to the north it was alone, and it rested alone for at least ten min. at the edge of a small area of open water far from any other gulls. During the several flights around the open water at Hardman Avenue, there were many other gulls in the air and the Ross's Gull was among them, but I did not see it specifically forage



Ross's Gull, 15 December 2007, South St. Paul, Dakota County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

or drop down to the water — it just appeared to be flying, 5–15 m above the surface in a meandering path. Finally, at 2:50 it flew from its close roosting spot 125 m away and headed south, downriver. I followed it through my scope the entire way, and it flew in a relatively direct line, below the treeline (thus probably 10–20 m above the water), mostly on the Ramsey County side of the river. On the way it passed by numerous foraging Herring Gulls but it did not waver in its course, and eventually went out of sight around the bend. The distance from its resting spot on the ice at Hardman/Grand avenues to where it was relocated south of the I-494 bridge at 3:45 was about 3 km (by river). It was seen in three counties: Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington.

This is the third Minnesota record of Ross's Gull. All were “inland” (away from Lake Superior) and all three have been adults. The first was found by James P. Mattsson at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County on 4 April 1984 and seen through 14 April (*The Loon* 56:128–129). The second, also a spring record, was found by Steven P. Stucker on 16 April 1992 at Goose Lake Wildlife Management Area, Pennington County (*The Loon* 64:156–158). **Bruce A. Fall, 4300 – 29th Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55406.**



Canada Geese, 3 October 2007, Circle Pines, Anoka County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

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The purpose of the MOU is the promotion of a broad program of conservation and natural history study, primarily in the field of ornithology.

To achieve this objective, the Union urges and promotes interest in field studies and observation of birds by individual members and affiliated bird clubs. We publish a quarterly journal, *The Loon*, and a newsletter, *Minnesota Birding*; we conduct



field trips; we encourage and sponsor the preservation of natural areas; and we hold seminars where research reports, unusual observations, and conservation discussions are presented.

We are supported by dues from members, affiliated clubs, and special gifts. Any or all aspects of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials, or bequests willed to the organization.

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The Loon is a peer-reviewed journal on the birds of Minnesota published quarterly by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. The Editor welcomes submissions of articles, Notes of Interest, color slides, and photographs. All submissions should be typed, double-spaced, and single-sided. Notes of Interest should be less than two full pages. Photographs should be no smaller than 5"x7". Whenever possible, please include a digital copy of your submission in any standard format on floppy disk, CD, DVD, or via e-mail. Digital documents may be e-mailed to the Editor of *The Loon* — see inside front cover for contact information. Club information and other announcements of general interest should be sent to the Editor of our newsletter *Minnesota Birding* — see inside front cover for contact information. Bird sighting reports for each season should be sent to the Editor of "The Seasonal Report" — see "Key to The Seasonal Report" for contact information.



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A photograph of a yellow-rumped sapsucker perched on a tree trunk. The bird has a black cap with a yellow stripe, a black face, and a black body with white horizontal stripes on its wings and back. It is facing left and has a hole in the bark of the tree trunk in front of it. The tree trunk is covered in moss and lichen. The background is a blurred forest.

The **Loon**

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Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Peder H. Svingen, Chairman

The most recent meetings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) were held 20 April and 10 August 2008. In attendance and voting at one or both of these meetings were Kim Eckert (alternate member), Bruce Fall (alternate), Anthony Hertzell (alternate), Ann Kessen, Jim Lind, Bill Marengo, Jim Mattsson, Drew Smith, Steve Stucker, and Peder Svingen (Chair).

Significant discussion was held at each of these meetings on the 2009 revision of the Checklist of the Birds of Minnesota. MOURC also concluded its review of Hermit Warbler and Townsend's Warbler records (*The Loon* 80:5). Ann Kessen had examined a specimen of the Hermit Warbler from Isanti County, 3 May 1931 (BMNH #7735), and applied the criteria developed by Rohwer and Wood (1998) for determining hybrid characteristics. The resultant index score of .057 was within the expected range for "pure" Hermit Warbler, and the Committee voted not to review this record (vote 1–8). The Committee had previously voted to recirculate one record of Hermit Warbler from 1983 and one record of Townsend's Warbler from 1994.

Also discussed at one or both of these meetings were the origin of a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in Hennepin County, a potential first state record of the Swainson's Warbler, and identification issues for several recirculated records. Results of these discussions and votes are shown below, along with records voted on by mail January – September 2008.

The following records were Accepted.

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), 28–30 October 2007, Anderson Lakes, Eden Prairie,



Record 2008-026, Brant, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Kim Eckert.

Hennepin County (record #2007-085, vote 7–0 on identification, vote 7–3 for natural origin).

Ninth state record; adult, photographed. All ten members discuss and vote on issues of origin. In this case, the majority felt that natural or "wild" origin was more likely, so the record will be filed without an "o" subscript.

- Brant (*Branta bernicla*), 19–27 May 2008, Bayfront Park, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2008-026, vote 7–0).

Sixteenth state record. Adult "Atlantic" Brant (subspecies *brotta*), photographed and seen by many observers.

- Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*), 7 April 2008, Bass Ponds, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Hennepin County (record #2008-009, vote 7–0).



Record 2008-023, White-tailed Kite, 4 May 2008, near Austin, Mower County. Photo by Brian Plath.

- Cinnamon Teal, 26 April 2008, Crookston Wastewater Treatment Ponds, Polk County (record #2008-020, vote 7-0).

- Cinnamon Teal, 22 June 2008, Walter Township, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2008-034, vote 7-0).

All three Cinnamon Teal records were of adult males showing no signs of hybridization with Blue-winged Teal (*A. discors*); the first two were photographed.

- King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), 28 November 2007, Shingobee Bay, Leech Lake, Cass County (record #2008-001, vote 6-1).

Seventeenth state record. Female-type plumage, videotaped.

- Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), 16 December 2007 – 13 January 2008, two adult males on Mississippi River, Dakota and Washington counties

(record #2008-003, vote 7-0 for first individual, vote 5-2 for second individual).

Only one adult male was reported at this location after 19 December, leading to speculation that one or both birds may have wandered farther south to Goodhue and Wabasha counties (see below).

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 5 January 2008, adult male at Colvill Park, Red Wing, Goodhue County (record #2008-004, vote 7-0).

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 2 February – 4 March 2008, adult male on Lake Pepin, Wabasha County (record #2008-006, vote 7-0).

- Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*), 20 April 2008, Lake Osakis, Douglas and Todd counties (record #2008-018, vote 7-0).

- White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*), 24-



Record 2008-033, White-winged Dove, 15 June 2008, Grand Portage, Cook County. Photo by Stephen Veit.

25 May 2008, Straight River Marsh, Steele County (record #2008-030, vote 6-1).

Adult in alternate plumage, photographed.

- White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*), 4 May 2008, near Austin, Mower County (record #2008-023, vote 7-0).

Second state record; photographed.

- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 3 May 2008, Bass Ponds, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Hennepin County (record #2008-022, vote 5-2).

- Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*), 17 May 2008, near Ortonville, Big Stone County (record #2008-027, vote 7-0).

Twenty-fifth state record. Identifiably photographed.

- Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), 10 January – 15 March 2008, Duluth,

St. Louis County (record #2008-007, vote 7-0) (*The Loon* 80:171-173).

Fourth state record. Adult in basic plumage, photographed.

- Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*), 15 December 2007, Mississippi River, Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington counties (record #2008-002, vote 7-0).

Third state record, documented by different observers in each county. Adult in basic plumage, photographed (*The Loon* 80:108-110).

- Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*), 7 January 2008, Canal Park, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2008-005, vote 7-0) (*The Loon* 80:174).

Eleventh state record, and the first for this declining species since December 1991 (*The Loon* 64:3-5). First-cycle, photographed.



Record 2008-028, Burrowing Owl, 22 May 2008, Moorhead, Clay County. Photo by Dale Rehder.



Record 2008-021, Golden-crowned Sparrow, 28 April 2008, Lutsen, Cook County. Photo by David Brisance.

- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), 16–22 April 2008, Lutsen, Cook County (record #2008-017, vote 7–0).

- White-winged Dove, 15 June 2008, Grand Portage, Cook County (record #2008-033, vote 7–0).

The 14th and 15th state records. Both were identifiably photographed.

- Burrowing Owl (*Athene cucularia*), 22 May – 7 June 2008, Moorhead, Clay County (record #2008-028, vote 7–0).

Found in the same housing development as last year (*The Loon* 80:9). Photographed.

- Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), 25 April 2008, Artist's Point, Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2008-019, vote 5–2).

- Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*), 30 April 1994, Lac Qui Parle Township, Lac Qui Parle County (recirculated record #2008-011, vote 6–1).

- Hermit Warbler (*D. occidentalis*), 14 May 1983, Yellow Bank River, Lac Qui Parle County (recirculated record #2008-010, vote 5–2 / 6–1).

The above two previously Accepted records were discussed and recirculated

after a subcommittee re-examined Minnesota records of Hermit and Townsend's warblers, and recommended that they be reviewed in light of published information on the frequency of hybridization between *townsendi* and *occidentalis* in the Pacific Northwest.

- Yellow-throated Warbler (*D. dominica*), 25 May 2008, Dodge Nature Center, Dakota County (record #2008-031, vote 7–0).

- Yellow-throated Warbler, 12 July 2008, along St. Croix River near Otisville, Washington County (record #2008-035, vote 7–0).

Identifiably photographed.

- Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*), 28 April – 6 May 2008, Lutsen, Cook County (record #2008-021, vote 7–0).

Second county and fourth state record. Adult, photographed.

- Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*), 21 May 2008, Minnetonka, Hennepin County (record #2008-029, vote 7–0).

- Painted Bunting (*P. ciris*), 13 May 2008, Minnesota Department of Natu-



Record 2008-032, Painted Bunting, 13 May 2008, Lake City, Wabasha County. Photo submitted by Walter Popp.

ral Resources Office, Lake City, Wabasha County (record #2008-032, vote 7-0).

Twenty-first state record. Adult male, photographed.

The following records were Not Accepted. (Please note that a record which is Not Accepted only means that the documentation was not complete or convincing enough to include the sighting in *The Loon*, the journal of the MOU, or in the MOU's archives of confirmed bird records. Such a vote does not necessarily mean the observer misidentified the bird or did not see it. Summaries of the reasons why a record was Not Accepted are included here. These are in no way intended to be critical of the observer. The only purpose is to highlight the difficulties an observer may encounter while identifying or documenting these and similar species.)

- Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), 9 April 2008, Eden Prairie, Hennepin County (record #2008-014, vote 1-6).

This intriguing report by an experienced observer emphasized the bird's shape and manner of flight. Unfortunately,

optics were not available and the distance of 0.3 mile precluded detection of this species' diagnostic silvery wing-tip patches.

- Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), 16 December 2006, St. Paul, Ramsey County (recirculated record #2007-011, vote 1-6).

This previously Accepted record from the St. Paul Christmas Bird Count was recirculated after concerns were raised about the identification. The more likely possibility of Red-shouldered Hawk (*B. lineatus*) was not conclusively eliminated by the submitted description, and it was felt that unequivocal documentation would be needed to confirm Minnesota's first winter record of this species.

- Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), 27 March 2008, Stillwater, Washington County (record #2008-015, vote 0-7).

The brief description of this vocalizing bird did not include an actual description of the call. The date was more than three weeks earlier than any previous occurrence of Whimbrel in Minnesota. Though even more unlikely, other *Numenius* sp. were not eliminated.

- Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), 13-14 April 2008, Eagle Lake, Blue Earth County (record #2008-016, vote 0-7).

The original observer declined to provide documentation after reviewing his field notes. Meanwhile, other observers arrived with expectations of seeing a Mew Gull, and although it was unclear if everyone saw the same bird, all of the submitted images showed Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*) and/or Herring (*L. argentatus*) gulls.

- Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), 18 February 2008, near Fairmont, Martin County (record #2008-008, vote 0-7).

Though possibly correctly identified, the brief description of a bird with a "heart-shaped face" and "white speckled underside" was insufficient to eliminate Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*).

- Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), 9 April 2008, Sauk Rapids, Benton County (record #2008-013, vote 2-5).

Field notes were not taken and al-

though the bird was reportedly seen from a distance of only ten feet for four or five minutes, the brief description omitted key features of this species, including head and throat color, and contrast between the black tail and upperparts.

- Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*), 16 September 2007, Charles Lindberg State Park, Morrison County (record #2008-012, vote 0–7).

Poor quality images were submitted four months after the observation, with a detailed mathematical analysis of the bird's silhouette. Plumage was undescribed and the bird was not heard vocalizing.

- Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*), 14 May 2008, Faribault County (record #2008-025, vote 0–7).

The characteristic tail-pumping behavior of this Federally Endangered species was not noted. The description included "dark black cheeks" which does not fit Kirtland's. Female Magnolia Warbler (*D. magnolia*) was not eliminated by the brief description, and the record was not supported by field notes and/or sketches.

- Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), 9 May 2008, Lake Vadnais, Ramsey County (record #2008-024, vote 0–10).

Field notes were reportedly taken but could not be found, and the observer had no experience with this species. Similar species were not eliminated by the brief description, which did not include information about its overall shape, bill color, bill shape, leg color, or its wings, rump, and tail.

- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 2 August 2007, near Marietta, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2007-049, vote 1–6).

This previously Accepted record was recirculated after concerns were raised about the lifeless pose of the bird in the submitted image. Field notes, additional images, or written documentation may have assuaged these concerns, but none were submitted.

The efforts of all those observers who

document reports of unusual species are greatly appreciated, whether or not the records are Accepted. Accordingly, the Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided written or photographic documentation for one or more of the records listed in this article: Lianne Alt, Karl Bardon, Dave Bartkey, Lars Benson, David Brislance, Conny Brunell, Paul Budde, Dave Cahlander, Mary Lynn Cervantes, Phil Chu, Phil Dech, Alyssa DeRubeis, Kim Eckert, Paul Egeland, Bob Ekblad, John Ellis, Bruce Fall, Wayne Feder, John Fitzpatrick, Merrill Frydendall, Caleb Gosiak, Lissa Grover, Dan and Pam Guynn, Timo Havimo, Anthony Hertzell, Sharon Jerabek, Doug Kieser, Jim Lind, Jim Mattsson, Stuart McKernan, Molly Jo Miller, Mark Nieters, Mark Ochs, Sue Plankis, Brian Plath, Dale Rehder, Harvey Sobieck, Sparky Stensaas, Peder Svingen, Kyle TePoel, Stephen Veit, Linda Whyte, and Ben Wieland.

There were many more observers who provided written documentation and/or photographs for records of Regular species which were not voted on by the Committee. Although such records are not cited here, the efforts of these individuals are greatly appreciated. All observers are encouraged to use the "Request for Documentation Form," which can be downloaded from the MOU website or filled out online at <<http://moumn.org/cgi-bin/rqd.pl?op=new>>.

The Committee welcomes questions or comments regarding any record or our procedures in general. Please contact Peder Svingen by e-mail at <mourc@moumn.org>. Summary: 38 records voted on — 28 Accepted (74%), 10 Not Accepted (26%).

Literature Cited

Rohwer, S., and C. Wood. 1998. Three hybrid zones between Hermit and Townsend's warblers in Washington and Oregon. *Auk* 115:284–310.

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The Case of the Rotten Swan

Tips on swan identification that will hold up in court

Carrol L. Henderson

The continuing increase in Trumpeter Swan numbers in Minnesota and their expansion to new nesting areas create opportunities for enjoyment of this impressive waterfowl species. Concurrently, it has created new challenges among birders, biologists, and conservation officers to validate their swan sightings as Trumpeter Swans and to learn key identifying marks that distinguish Trumpeter Swans from migrant Tundra Swans. We would typically tend to think of swan identification as a “recreational” activity, but in 2007, I was asked to testify in court regarding the illegal shooting of a swan in northern Minnesota during the fall 2006 waterfowl season. I learned that the real difference between a Tundra Swan and a Trumpeter Swan is “about \$2500.”

DNR Conservation Officer Karl Hadrits provided the following summary of the swan shooting for an incident that I now refer to as “the case of the rotten swan.”

This is the most unusual swan shooting case I have ever known. When the family of swans flew past the two persons who shot at them, one of the juvenile swans was injured. One of the parent swans landed beside the injured one and refused to abandon it. The two persons who shot the swan left the scene because other hunters had witnessed the shooting. The DNR later learned of the shooting and located the two swans with the aid of an airplane. Officer Hadrits went out in a boat to capture the swans. When he approached the wounded juvenile bird, the adult bird swam between the boat and the injured bird to protect it. When the young swan was finally captured with the aid of a large landing net, the adult swam up to the boat and allowed Officer Hadrits to pick it up and place it beside its young. When the birds were examined by Dr.



Minnesota Conservation Officer Karl Hadrits is holding the adult Trumpeter Swan that refused to leave its wounded young. Photo by Susan Hadrits.

Debbie Eskedal at the Garrison Animal Hospital, the adult Trumpeter Swan was found to have no injuries. Its bond to the young was so strong that it simply refused to leave it behind. Officer Hadrits took that adult bird back out to the wetland where the shooting occurred and released it on the following day. The young swan died later in October from its injuries.

Other hunters who witnessed the shooting provided enough information to identify the young shooters. They were cited for shooting a Trumpeter Swan. Since Trumpeter Swans are officially listed as a threatened species in Minnesota, the fine for shooting one can be as much as \$3000. At that point, the attorney for the



This is the 23-pound juvenile that was shot and later died from its injuries. How would you prove whether it is a Trumpeter Swan or Tundra Swan? Photo by Susan Hadrits.

defendants decided to try proving that the bird that had been shot was a Tundra Swan because then the fine would probably be less than \$300.

Meanwhile, the freezer back at the Garrison Animal Hospital broke, and the contents, including the now dead immature swan, spoiled. One of the hospital volunteers disposed of the rotten swan, not realizing that it was being held as court evidence.

It was at that point that I was brought in as a witness to testify in court about the differences between Tundra Swans and Trumpeter Swans and to prove that the swan in question was indeed a Trumpeter Swan. I provided what I considered to be the most relevant criteria for distinguishing these two species and compared those criteria with the weight of the dead swan (23 pounds), the photo of the injured swan when it was first brought in to the Garrison Animal Hospital, the photo of the adult bird that accompanied the juvenile, and commented on the incredible bond between the injured juvenile

swan and the characteristics of the adult swan, apparently its parent, that refused to leave its wounded young. The judge agreed with my assessment that this was indeed a Trumpeter Swan, and the two shooters were assessed a fine of \$2,542. The case of the rotten swan was brought to a just conclusion — except of course for the swan.

Then in June of 2008, I was accompanying several Manitoba wildlife biologists, DNR Nongame Wildlife Program specialist Katie Haws, and provincial tourism staff members to assist with creation of a new birding trail in southeastern Manitoba. On our first day out, we encountered a pair of swans in a highway “borrow pit” wetland. With the aid of a spotting scope, I was able to point out some of the most relevant field marks that distinguished these birds as Trumpeter Swans — criteria that had become indelibly etched in my mind during the case of the rotten swan. This sighting was a cause for celebration — it was the first sighting of free-flying Trumpeter Swans in southeastern Manitoba in



This photo, taken at Monticello, Wright County, shows a juvenile Tundra Swan on the left and a juvenile Trumpeter Swan on the right. Photo by Carrol L. Henderson.

recent history. The swans were expanding their range from northern Minnesota.

After my visit to Manitoba, the biologists there asked me to summarize my swan identification tips and send photos regarding swan identification that they could share with their field staff.

These experiences helped me realize that there are probably many other people who would probably appreciate some relevant tips and photos for distinguishing our two native wild swans. Kim Eckert provided a very useful article entitled “A Second Look at Swans” in the Winter 2003–2004 issue of *The Loon* and highlighted some of the key points, and typical frustrations, for identifying our native wild swans. I would like to expand on his information with a selection of photos and other key features that I found most useful even to the point that they would “hold up in court.”

Size

One characteristic that usually does not work well for identification is size. The

largest Tundra Swans are about the size of smaller Trumpeter Swans. Adult Tundra Swans can weigh from 11.9 to 17.6 pounds and adult Trumpeter Swans can weigh from 20 to 35 pounds. In the court case cited above, the juvenile swan weighed 23 pounds. In a sample size of 702 swans, the largest Tundra Swan weighed 19.58 pounds (Limpert et al. 1987). That kind of evidence is quite definitive.

However, in the field, size distinctions are all “relative” as field marks and are usually undependable. The size of the swan in question can be helpful if there are Canada Geese, Trumpeter Swans, and Tundra Swans all in the immediate vicinity for easy comparison. The wintering site at Monticello, Wright County, is a good place to practice your swan identification skills. Scattered among the Trumpeter Swans there is usually a Tundra Swan that stays for the winter and perhaps also a Mute Swan.

The Tundra Swan will appear very close in size to the Canada Geese. If you observe a Tundra Swan next to a Trum-



Carrol L. Henderson

This photo shows four key identification features of a Trumpeter Swan: the long sloping bill is not significantly concave, the black skin of the lores encloses the front half of the eye, the forehead is sloped up to the top of the head and not rounded, and the red edge of the mandible is clearly apparent.



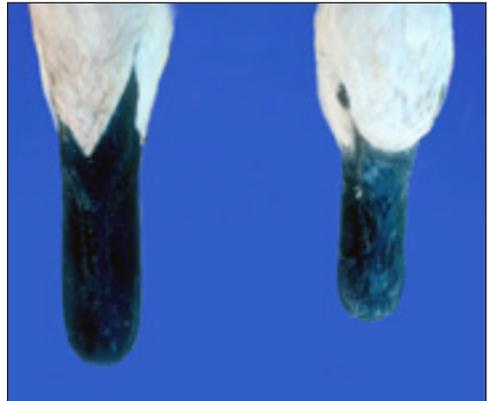
Carrol L. Henderson

This adult Tundra shows four key identification features: the contour of the upper bill is more concave, the skin of the lores narrows to a point in front of the eye and does not enclose the front half of the eye, there is a conspicuous yellow mark in front of the eye, and there is no red to the edge of the mandible.



Carrol L. Henderson

This is the only Trumpeter Swan I have seen that had a faint yellowish spot in front of the eye. However, it also has a fleshy lore area that encloses the front portion of the eye and the red edging on the mandible is also apparent.



Carrol L. Henderson

This photo shows a Trumpeter Swan on the left and a Tundra Swan on the right. The forehead feathers come to a point on the Trumpeter Swan whereas the front edge of the feathers is rounded on the Tundra Swan.

peter Swan, it will appear 30% to 40% smaller than the Trumpeter Swan.

Head Profile and Top Slope of the Bill

Trumpeter Swans have a “flattened” forehead that slopes up to the top of the head, curves rather abruptly at the peak, and then slopes down on the backside of the head, giving a rather “peaked” pro-

file. The top of the head does not appear “rounded.” Tundra Swans typically have a rounded “Charlie Brown” profile over the top of the head.

Look closely at the dorsal profile of the bill. On a Trumpeter Swan, the profile is straighter and slopes straight up along the forehead. On a Tundra Swan, the profile is concave (dished in).



Carrol L. Henderson

These are the first Trumpeter Swans observed in Manitoba in recent history. Notice the neck posture of the lead bird — it angles back then upward. Also, the bills of both birds show a straight profile, the top of their heads are not rounded, and the fleshy portion of the lores encloses the front portion of the eyes.



Carrol L. Henderson

Notice the neck posture of these Tundra Swans. The bird on the left shows how the neck extends directly upward and does not angle back. There is a yellow teardrop mark in front of the eyes, but note: the skin does enclose the front portion of the eyes. This is not typical, but it does happen.

Check the Front of the Eyes

The fleshy skin extending back from the bill (the lores) typically narrows to a point in front of the eye on a Tundra Swan and does not surround the front half of the eye as it usually does on a Trumpeter Swan. On about 80% of Tundra Swans, the fleshy area in front of the eye will have a conspicuous yellow “teardrop” marking. If the yellow teardrop marking is present, it is probably a Tundra Swan. If that area is black, it can be either a Tundra Swan or a Trumpeter Swan and other features need to be reviewed.

I have only seen one Trumpeter Swan with a faint yellow spot in front of the eye, but that bird also had a red grinning patch characteristic of a Trumpeter Swan and the black fleshy skin of the lores enclosed the front half of the eye.

Red Edge on Mandible

The edge of the mandible (the tomium) is red on a Trumpeter Swan and black on a Tundra Swan. This red edging is visible even at a distance and is usually a good field mark. Sibley (2000) shows a yellowish edge on the tomium for his Tundra Swan drawing, but I do not see that with

any regularity. See the photo for an example of the red tomium on a Trumpeter Swan.

“Widow’s Peak” on the Top of the Bill

If the swan is facing you, look at the front edge of the white feathers where the bill meets the forehead. The margin of the feathers usually comes to a point (“widow’s peak”) on a Trumpeter Swan and it is rounded on a Tundra Swan.

Head Bobbing

Trumpeter Swans frequently engage in bobbing, or pumping, their heads up and down as a means of displaying to their mates and to other swans. This may be a significant activity related to pair bonding. Tundra Swans do not bob their heads. If you go to Monticello, watch the bonding behavior of the Trumpeter Swan pairs as they engage in head bobbing and courtship displays — especially in late January and early to mid-February. They put on quite a display.

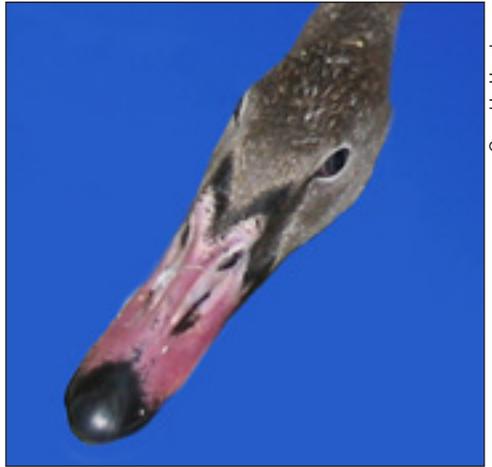
Neck Posture-Swimming and Take-off (helpful but perhaps not definitive)

Another clue to a swan’s identity is the



Carrol L. Henderson

As this Trumpeter Swan takes off, the neck is momentarily drawn back into an “S-shaped” curve.



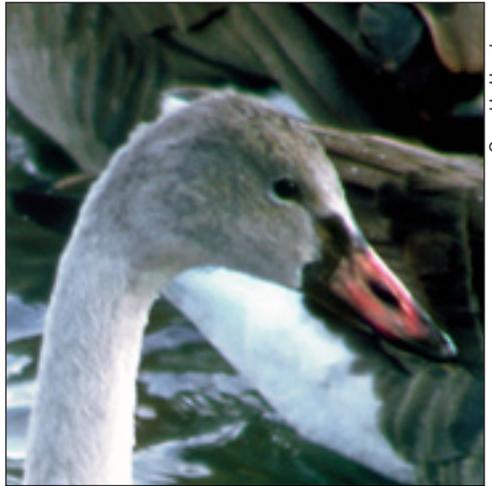
Carrol L. Henderson

This is a fall-plumaged juvenile Trumpeter Swan. Notice how the feathering comes to a point on the top of the bill.



Carrol L. Henderson

This juvenile Trumpeter Swan has a black bill but is still feathered around the lores. The edge of the mandible is pale pink at this stage, and the head is gray. The top of the head is not rounded.



Carrol L. Henderson

This is a juvenile Tundra Swan. Notice that the top of the head is rounded.

posture of the lower neck as the bird is swimming. A Trumpeter Swan will often tend to hold the first several inches of its neck angled backward over its shoulders, then upward. A Tundra Swan typically holds its neck straight upward from the front of its body. As Eckert (2003) pointed out, this is not a strictly valid criteria, but can be useful as a supplemental observation.

When taking off, Trumpeter Swans

momentarily draw their necks back into a shallow “S-shaped” curve. Then their necks straighten out as they reach flight speed. Tundra Swans hold their necks straight forward when taking off. Again, as Eckert reported, perhaps this is true, but more observations would be useful to help validate this criteria.

Juvenile Swans

First year juvenile swans (both Trum-



Carol L. Henderson

Tundra Swans in flight. They are normally observed in large flocks.

peter and Tundra) can appear very similar if they are not in the company of their parents. Both are medium gray in their first fall and appear splotchy with white toward spring. The bills of both species have varying amounts of pink with a dark tip and dark edges at the rear of the bill. The pink coloration tends to fade to black during the first winter. The color of the feet is also variable. The feet may be pinkish, greenish, yellowish, or grayish-black. However, young swans stay in the company of their parents until the following spring when they return to their natal marsh and are then driven off by the parents. Look for family groups that have one or both white parents accompanied by two to six or seven grayish young. To save yourself the confusion of identifying juveniles, identify the parents.

Flock Size, Calls, and Migration

Minnesota is in the major flyway for Tundra Swans that migrate from Alaska, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories southeast through Minnesota en route to the East Coast. They have a tradition of “turning eastward” over the Twin Cities region in the fall and stopping to feed in the backwaters of the Mississippi River roughly from Winona to Brownsville. The fall migration is from late October through

early December with a peak in mid to late November. These swans often migrate at night and can be heard over the Twin Cities as they pass over on a quiet November evening.

Tundra Swans also pass through Minnesota in the spring during March and April. At that time, their observations are more scattered throughout much of the state. They are often seen in large flocks standing or swimming in temporary ponds that have formed in agricultural fields during the spring thaw.

Trumpeter Swans are less seasonal in their presence and may be seen in any month of the year because they both nest here and winter in the state. Tundra Swans will typically be seen in large, migrating flocks that may range from several dozen to over a hundred birds. They fly in high, V-shaped groups and their distinctive calls can be heard from a great distance. Their calls sound like distant “whoops and hollers” that have been described as a wavering “oo—OO—oo” with more emphasis on the middle note. In contrast, Trumpeter Swans have a more horn-like honking, trumpeting call.

During the spring and summer breeding season, Tundra Swans are absent in the state except for an occasional injured or sick swan that is unable to continue migration. After winter sets in, usually by mid-December, Tundra Swans leave the state for wintering areas in coastal regions of Virginia and North Carolina.

In spring, Trumpeter Swan pairs occupy separate wetland breeding territories that they defend from other Trumpeter Swans. After the young hatch in June, Trumpeter Swan pairs will typically be seen with their brood of perhaps two up to eight cygnets. Those cygnets stay with them throughout the fall and winter, so most summer and early fall swan sightings consist of family groups.

Trumpeter Swans do not usually begin nesting until they are four years old. Nonbreeding subadults that are two years old will typically form flocks of perhaps three to four dozen birds that can be seen on major wetland complexes such as

the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge in Becker County. These flocks can be seen throughout the summer and fall. When Trumpeter Swans are three years old, they typically pair off with a mate and spend their third summer on a wetland that they “stake out” as a future nesting territory. Rarely, three-year old swans will mate and raise young.

Beginning in late November, Trumpeter Swans gather at major wintering sites such as Monticello, Fergus Falls, and at Hudson, WI, along the St. Croix River. Others migrate to more southerly states. These wintering groups include adults, family groups with juveniles, and subadults.

Neck Collars

If you want a real shortcut to swan identification, locate a swan with neck collars or wing (patagial) tags. You can determine its identity as well as its origin, and even its gender. Trumpeter Swans released by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have orange wing tags. The tags are placed on the right wing for males and on the left wing for females. If you are able to read the numbers on the tag, contact Diane Vejtruba of the Nongame Wildlife Program (Diane.Vejtruba@dnr.state.mn.us) to report the swan's status and learn background information on the bird.

Trumpeter Swans with yellow neck collars and black lettering have been released by the Wisconsin DNR. These swans should also have a matching yellow leg band. Those swans should be reported to Patricia Manthey of the Wisconsin DNR at patricia.Manthey@wisconsin.gov. There are still a few Trumpeter Swans released by the Wisconsin DNR that have green neck collars.

The Iowa DNR is also actively involved with Trumpeter Swan restoration. Its swans are marked with red neck collars that have white lettering. Some of their swans have regularly shown up in southern Minnesota and even in southern Manitoba. If you see any swans with red neck collars, report them to David.Hoffman@dnr.iowa.gov.

If you observe a swan with a black neck collar, it is a Tundra Swan. Some Tundra Swans have been captured and marked on their wintering grounds along the East Coast and they are occasionally observed as they migrate through Minnesota.

Genetic Variability

The above criteria are the ones that I have found most helpful in working with swans over the past 26 years. However, the most important thing to remember about swan identification, and other kinds of bird identification in general, is that genetic variability will always, eventually, make a liar out of you if you are looking for hard and fast identification criteria that will always work. Look for multiple characteristics that will aid in identification, and when all else fails, just take the time to enjoy the birds — and take some photos that you can study later.

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MN DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031.

The Winter Season

1 December 2007 through 29 February 2008

James P. Mattsson¹, Andrew D. Smith², and Paul E. Budde³

The return of what could best be described as an “old fashioned” winter with plenty of snow cover throughout the period was accompanied by an overall lackluster showing of rarities, with the notable exceptions of two rare Arctic gulls, causing some birders to cry “fowl!” or worse. Late or potentially overwintering geese were represented by only a single **Snow Goose** in Sherburne in early January. Birders have become increasingly adept at identifying and documenting the recently split **Cackling Goose** (but beware small *B. c. parvipes*, Lesser Canada Goose). **Mute Swans** were found in Winona and Wright; a record high concentration of **Trumpeter Swans** was reported in Monticello, and large concentrations of **Tundra Swans** were once again not reported due to early ice conditions.

Gadwall lingered north in St. Louis (Duluth) and apparently overwintered in Dakota. Other overwintering dabblers included **Northern Shoveler** in Scott and **Northern Pintail** in Wright and Dakota. All five *Aythya* diving ducks were recorded well into January at Point Douglas Park, Washington, and all attempted to overwinter in the metro counties, including an impressive 37 **Ring-necked Ducks** in Scott. Headlining the “Most Watched and Certainly Unexpected” list this season was a wayward male **Harlequin Duck** that spent nearly the entire period near Prescott, WI, in Washington and Dakota. Playing second fiddle to the Harlequin were two alternate plumaged male **Barrow’s Goldeneyes** at the same locale. Pt. Douglas also hosted two interesting hybrid ducks: a **Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser** and an apparent and rarely described **Barrow’s Goldeneye X Common Goldeneye**.

Six of Minnesota’s seven regular species of gallinaceous birds showed continued increases, including **Gray Partridge**. **Spruce Grouse** may also be on the rise, but their population is much more difficult to monitor and assess. **Wild Turkeys** now seem to be, well, everywhere based on reports from a record 43 counties. January grebes included **Pied-billed** in Rice and **Horned** in St. Louis. **Double-crested Cormorants** lingered until mid-January in Dakota and persisted thru February in Ramsey near Pig’s Eye. **Great Blue Herons** were found through late January in Ramsey and Sherburne.

A very late migrant **Turkey Vulture** was well described in early December in Cottonwood. Approximately 50 **Bald Eagles** feeding on chicken offal at a plant at Buckman must have been quite a sight. Of 23 **Northern Goshawks** reported, none was described and only one was aged (an adult), raising concerns about identification of the other 22 individuals. **Red-shouldered Hawk** reports were numerous with 16 on the state’s Christmas Bird Counts (CBC), double the 20-year average.

The highlight of the season was the well photographed third state record adult **Ross’s Gull** that provided county records for Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington — all in one day. A painfully short stay (two hours) by a first-cycle **Ivory Gull** in Duluth was bliss for a few, but cruel and painful for the die-hard larophiles whom the clock did not favor.

Expanding numbers of **Eurasian Colared-Doves** were reflected by a 325% increase over the recent CBC average. Found in late October, the state’s first **Inca Dove** in Lake survived a 14-inch snow storm on 2 December and was last

seen three days later. Overall, northern owls were present in reduced numbers, especially **Boreal Owl** with only one report from Cook. **Great Gray Owls** were found on only two CBCs — Grand Rapids and Grand Marais.

An impressive 29 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found on the Cedar Creek Bog CBC while an equally impressive 35 **American Three-toed Woodpeckers** were reported during the period. A female **Mountain Bluebird** continued at the Grand Marais Coast Guard station in Cook. **Townsend's Solitaires** were found in good numbers across the state and only absent in the West-central and Southwest regions.

Exceptional was a well-photographed **Chipping Sparrow** in late-January in Mower. Two **Savannah Sparrows** in McLeod provided only the fifth winter season record for this species. Increased reports of **meadowlarks** came from seven counties this season. Very rare in winter, a male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was photographed at a feeder in Hennepin. Winter finch numbers were again modest and unremarkable. Maybe next year!

Weather Summary: Generally lacking statewide in recent years, snow covered much of the state during the 2007–2008 winter season. And it was the coldest winter since 2000–2001, although some extreme temperature swings did occur. Here are a few highlights by month.

December precipitation totals topped normal by roughly one-half inch in most locations and snowfall totals exceeded one foot in nearly all locations. In the snowiest December since 2000, some locations in northeastern Minnesota received two to three feet of snow. Cold weather early in the month was counter-balanced by seasonal to above-normal temperatures in the second half of December. Extreme values for December ranged from a high of 40° in Canby (Yellow Medicine County) on the 19th and in Grand Marais on the 20th, to a low of -32° at Embarrass (St. Louis County) on the 9th.

In January, the weather took a turn as snowfall dropped below historic averages in most areas of the state with the exceptions of the southeast corner and along Lake Superior where things were about normal. A classic “January thaw” cut the snow pack a bit and temperatures climbed to a record-setting high of 48° in Grand Rapids on the 5th. Two bitter cold episodes came late in the month when Embarrass (St. Louis County) reached -39° on the 24th and the temperature fell 45° or more in a 24-hour period at nearly all reporting locations on the 29th.

In February, below average snowfall continued in most Minnesota locations with the exception once again of the far southeastern corner of Minnesota where totals were near average. Temperatures ranged from 5° to 7° below normal statewide with extremes ranging from 52° on the 24th in Canby (Yellow Medicine County), to a low of -40° at International Falls and at Embarrass on the 11th, the latter a record low for that date. Numerous low temperature records were set on 20 February when temperatures dropped into the -20°s and -30°s in northern and western Minnesota. Due to colder than average temperatures in December and February, the 2007–2008 winter season was the coldest since the winter of 2000–2001.

Undocumented Reports: **Common Loon** 1/4 Rice; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** late December through mid-February in Dakota and on the Hastings/Etter (2), St. Paul NE Suburban (2), and Winona CBCs; **Ovenbird** 12/1 Olmsted; **Chipping Sparrow** 12/2 Olmsted; **Hoary Redpoll** Hibbing CBC, Phillbrook CBC (2), 1/1 St. Louis (Hibbing), 1/12 Wilkin, 2/9 Itasca/Koochiching, and 2/17 Lake.

Acknowledgments: Thanks to all of you who submitted seasonal reports and documentation, especially to those using the on-line seasonal report at <moumn.org/moureports/season.html>. Special thanks to Dave Cahlander for his continuing efforts to streamline and improve this process. Carl Greiner did a great job taking over the helm of statewide CBC coordi-

nator (thanks again to past coordinator, Roger Schroeder) compiling and summarizing mountains of data. Thanks also to Anthony Hertzell, Jeanie Joppru, and Jim Lind for their tireless compilations of weekly RBAs.

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KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Species are listed in brackets [**Whooping Crane**] when there is a reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
3. Bracketed text following a species' name indicates the total number of north and south counties.
4. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
5. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
6. Counties with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
7. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
8. Counts listed in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
9. Dagger "+" preceding observer's initials denotes documentation was submitted.
10. Species documented with a photograph are denoted with "ph".
11. Species documented with digital or video tape are denoted with "v.t."

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor, contact the Editor of the Seasonal Report, Paul E. Budde, 4612 Colfax Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55419, or via e-mail at paul.budde@benfieldgroup.com.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) — [1 South] Only report 12/3 Lac Qui Parle (2 adults at Lac Qui Parle Lake) BJU.

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) — [3 South] All reports: 12/1 Meeker (13, Lake Ripley) DMF, MCA, 12/9 McLeod (13) LS, 1/5 Sherburne SMC.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) — [1 South] One report 12/1 Meeker (Lake Ripley) DMF, MCA.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) — [5 South] All reports that included description of small size, short neck, and stubby bill: 12/1 Meeker (15, Lake Ripley) DMF, 12/2 McLeod (20, Hutchinson) DMF, 12/3 Lac Qui Parle (1, Lac Qui Parle Lake) BJU, Washington CRM, 12/8 Wright ASc.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) —

[9 North, 33 South] High counts 12/3 Lac Qui Parle (4,500 at Lac Qui Parle Lake) BJU, 12/16 Clay (1,275 at Crystal Sugar ponds) PBB, 1/6 Clay (500) DWR.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) — [2 South] Two reports: early January through 1/23 Wright (Monticello) DMF; 1/4–2/2 Winona (2 at Mud Lake) CCB, Job, JWH.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) — [5 North, 19 South] Numerous reports and increasing. High counts 1/26 Wright (**1,400** at Monticello) ASc, 2/16 Scott (32 overwintered at Blue Lake W.T.P. and Mill Pond) PEJ.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) — [1 North, 2 South] North report 12/18 Cass (3 below Sylvan Dam on the Crow Wing River; 2 adults and a juvenile) †BAW. All south 12/1 Meeker DMF, 12/3 Hennepin MCA.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) — [1 North, 7 South] Only north report 12/16 Clay (male at Crystal Sugar ponds) PBB. Overwintered in Scott (3 at Blue Lake W.T.P.) PEJ and Olmsted (male in Rochester) JWH. Also found 1/26 Wright (Monticello, Mississippi Drive Park) ASC and 2/23 Meeker (male) DMF.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) — [1 North, 9 South] All north reports: 12/8 St. Louis (Canal Park, Duluth) *fide* JWJL, 12/15–16 St. Louis (adult male at Lake Place Park) PHS. High count 2/24 Scott (68 at Mill Pond and Blue Lake W.T.P., where overwintered) PEJ. South reports 1/1 Scott (4) RBJ, 1/7 Washington (2 males, 1 female) JPM, 1/26 Dakota (2, Black Dog Lake) PEJ, 2/4 Dakota JPM, 2/18 Winona CRM.

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) — [1 South] Only report 12/2 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) BAF.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) — [1 North, 17 South] High count of 16 overwintered in St. Louis at the W.L.S.S.D. treatment plant, Duluth (PHS). Also reported in small numbers in usual metro area counties in January and February.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) — [8 North, 30 South] High count of 1,400 found on 2/5 in St. Louis near W.L.S.S.D. treatment plant, Duluth (PHS). Also notable were 357 seen 2/1 in Anoka at dam on Rum River (CKB). Continuous snow cover this winter apparently was responsible for much reduced numbers.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) — [3 South] Three overwintered in Scott (Blue Lake W.T.P.) PEJ, JLO, DFN.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) — [1 North, 5 South] All north: 12/16 Clay (4, Crystal Sugar ponds) PBB, 2/18 Clay (Moorhead) RHO. Reports south: 12/2 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) BAF, LS, 12/8 Scott (injured, flightless bird in Wilkie Unit, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) DWK, 12/12 Wright (female) RBJ, 12/12–15 Benton HHD, 12/21

Ramsey (male, Hardman/Grand Ave.) BAF, 1/26 Wright (Monticello) ASC, 2/4 Dakota (male in Vermillion Twp.) JPM.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) — [1 North, 3 South] Female overwintered 12/31–2/27 St. Louis (Virginia) †SLF. All south 12/2 Dakota (3, Black Dog Lake) BAF, LS, 12/15 Scott JLO, 1/19 Winona (Whitewater W.M.A.) JWH, 1/26 Dakota DMF. Also reported on the Excelsior CBC (Hennepin).

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) — [9 South] Late south 1/1 Washington (5 — 2 males and 3 females — at Point Douglas Park, present for several weeks) BAF. Also, 5 birds attempted to overwinter in Scott (Blue Lake W.T.P.) PEJ. Reported 2/11–2/24 Wabasha (Lake Pepin) JWH, BAF, DWK. Possible early migrant 2/29 Jackson PEJ.

Redhead (*Aythya americana*) — [8 South] Late migrants 12/3 Lac Qui Parle (2, Lac Qui Parle Lake) BJU. Male overwintered through 1/28 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) and Dakota (Black Dog Lake) PEJ. Of 5 birds present through 12/29 Dakota (2 males and 3 females at Pt. Douglas) 2 males were still present 1/13 PEJ, BAF.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) — [9 South] Reported 12/31 Benton/Stearns along Mississippi River (Sartell) HHD. At least 37 overwintered Scott (Blue Lake W.T.P.) PEJ. A lingering first-year male last reported 1/13 Washington (Point Douglas Park) BAF.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) — [1 North, 5 South] Only north report 12/2 Lake (female at Agate Bay, Two Harbors) JWJL. Overwintered south in Scott (3 at Blue Lake W.T.P. and Mill Pond) PEJ. A lingering first-year male was last reported 1/21 Washington/Dakota (across from Prescott, WI) BAF, ADS, DWK. Also, 3 males and 1 female reported 2/11–2/24 Wabasha (Read's Landing) JWH, BAF, BRL, DWK. Also reported on the Excelsior CBC (Hennepin).

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) — [1 North, 8 South] Only north report 12/16 Clay (2 at Crystal Sugar ponds, Moorhead) PBB. Adult male present 12/29–1/5 Washington (Point Douglas Park) PEJ, BAF, BRL. Also overwintered in Scott (4, Blue Lake W.T.P.) PEJ.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) — [2 South] Especially unusual were two reports away from Lake Superior. Incredibly, a male overwintered in **Dakota/Washington** from 12/16 through the end of the season. Enjoyed by hundreds, many of whom witnessed the progression of pre-alternate molt, this bird appeared healthy and even survived a near-by chemical spill (see spring report) ph. †BAF, †PEB, †NSc.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) — [2 South] Two reports: 12/4 Wabasha (Mississippi River, Read's Landing) JWH and 1/12 Dakota (Mississippi River, across from Prescott, WI) †BAF. The latter, a female-type bird, was subsequently seen on 1/13 and reported as possibly having a pale area on distal portion of bill suggesting a possible first-year male JPM, PEB.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) — [3 North, 1 South] Reports of 2–3 birds 12/30–1/12 St. Louis (Brighton Beach and Lester River, Duluth) *fide* JWL, KRE, PHS. Other reports: 2/5 Cook (20, Paradise Beach, Grand Marais) *fide* JWL, 2/17 St. Louis (4, Knife River) DMF, 2/18 Lake (near Silver Creek) DMF. Only south report 12/31 Dakota (female-type, Hastings Lock and Dam 2) JPM.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) — [3 North, 2 South] North reports 12/1 Lake (5 at Agate Bay) JWL; 12/16 Clay (Crystal Sugar ponds) PBB; 1/22, 1/26, 2/23 (3 males and 1 female overwintering at Two Harbors) KRE, JWL. All south 12/2 McLeod (Hutchinson) DMF, and 3 reports from Dakota 12/8 (2, Black Dog Lake) BAF, 12/29 (male near Prescott, WI) PEJ, 1/6 (female overwintered Black Dog Lake) PEJ.



Apparent hybrid Barrow's Goldeneye X Common Goldeneye, 1 January 2008, Point Douglas, Washington County. Photo by Doug Kieser.

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) — [7 North, 20 South] High counts 2/16 Wabasha (1,025 on Mississippi River between east end of Lake Pepin and Read's Landing) BAF, 2/2 Wabasha (925 on Mississippi River between Camp Lacupolis and Read's Landing) BAF, 12/15 St. Louis (626 at Canal Park, Duluth) PHS, and 2/1 St. Louis (585 at Canal Park, Duluth) PHS. Also, numerous reports of small numbers at many open water areas in metro region.

Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser — [1 South] Observed on both sides of the Minnesota/Wisconsin state line 12/18–25 Dakota (near Prescott) JPM, †KJB. This hybrid combination has been reported several times in Minnesota.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*) — [3 South] Two alternate males first reported 12/16 Dakota (near Prescott, WI) were present in Dakota and Washington until 12/19; thereafter, one male remained until at least 1/13. †BAF, †PEB, †KJB, ph. †DWK, JPM, ph. DAC. What likely was the other of these males was found downriver 1/5 in Goodhue (Colvill Park, Red Wing) †PDe. An alternate male was also reported 2/2 Wabasha (Lake Pepin, Read's Landing area) †BAF. Subsequently, many observers reported 1 or 2 alternate males in Wabasha through 3/4, though only one was documented

(BAF, JWH, m.ob.).

Barrow's Goldeneye X Common Goldeneye — [1 South] Very unusual was an apparent hybrid male 1/1 Washington (Point Douglas Park) that possessed structure and plumage characteristics intermediate between the two species †JPM (see photo on previous page).

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) — [1 North, 9 South] Overwintered in St. Louis from 12/2 into March (male and female at Silver Lake in Virginia) SLF, and 1/8–24 (W.L.S.S.D. treatment plant, Duluth) *fide* JWJ, PHS. Numerous south reports spanned the season with a few birds overwintering in Dakota, Ramsey, and Scott.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) — [3 North, 17 South] One north report away from Lake Superior: 12/2 Cass (54, Walker Bay, Leech Lake) BAW. High count 2/2 Wabasha (2,200 on Mississippi River between Camp Lacupolis and Read's Landing) BAF. Also, a total of 1,400 counted 1/1 Ramsey (Hardman/Grand Ave., Mississippi River) BAF.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) — [2 North, 5 South] High count 2/16 St. Louis (27, Lake Superior) DMF. Other north reports: 1/26 Lake (Two Harbors) JWJ, up to 4 birds present 1/26–2/17 St. Louis (Canal Park) PHS, DWK. South reports 12/15 Dakota (3 at Black Dog Lake, PEB, PEJ), 12/15–21 Ramsey (female at Hardman Avenue BAF), 12/18 Washington (male, Pt. Douglas) JPM, 1/12 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) PEJ, 2/2 Dakota (male seen from Prescott, WI) BAF, 2/9 Ramsey (male at Hardman Avenue) BAF, 2/24–25 Olmsted (female at Silver Lake, Rochester) DAB, JWH.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) — [2 South] All reports: 12/1 Meeker (Lake Minnie Belle) DMF, 1/5–2/29 Scott (one drake overwintered at Blue Lake W.T.P.) PEJ, CRM, DFN. Also reported on the Winona CBC (Wabasha).

Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) — [5 North, 7 South] All north reports 12/15 Kittson (8), 1/19 Pennington (7), 1/31 Red Lake (6), 2/4 Red Lake (6), 2/14 Pennington (15), 2/28 Polk (10) — all *fide* JMJ. All south reports in Dakota, 12/5 and 2/22 (180th St. and Joan Ave.) RBW, 2/22 (180th St. and Emery Ave.) BAF; in Meeker 12/6 (10), 1/3 (3, Greenleaf Twp.) DMF; in Renville 12/6 (20), 12/19 (21, Buffalo Lake), 12/26 (high count of 32 just north of Buffalo Lake) DMF; and 12/7 Fillmore (20, C.R. 12) NBO; 12/27 Lac Qui Parle (Cerro Gordo Twp.) BJU; 12/29 McLeod (6) DMF.

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) — [15 North, 37 South] CBC total of 4,245 up 297% over 20-year average and 251% over 2006. Reported from most counties south of a line between Wilkin and Aitkin, plus Cass and Beltrami, reflecting recent high population levels statewide. Extreme northwest reports likely augmented by game farm escapees. High count 1/28 Stearns (42 digging in snow along C.R. D) MDN.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) — [16 North, 5 South] For the second year in a row, numbers are on the upswing following several years of low populations. For example, 167 birds recorded on 31 CBC counts compared to only 60 birds on 26 counts in 2005.

Spruce Grouse (*Falcapennis canadensis*) — [4 North] High count 12/30 Lake of the Woods (10, Beltrami Island CBC) *fide* JMJ. All other reports: 12/29 Roseau JMJ, 12/30 (4) and 1/5 Lake *fide* JWJ, 1/27 Lake KRE, LS, 2/2 Lake (5) CMB, St. Louis (3) MLH.

Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) — [11 North, 1 South] According to the Minnesota DNR, the statewide index value was as high as any year since 1980. High counts reflecting this increase: 2/24 Marshall (155) JMJ, 1/27 Kittson (77) LW, 2/4 Polk (50) NGE, 2/3 Pennington (30) SAS, 12/29 Roseau (27, Roseau CBC), 12/28 Aitkin (26, near Tamrarak) LS. All south reports were by BJU

in Lac Qui Parle: 12/2 (Perry Twp.), 12/11 (Garfield Twp.), 2/13, 2/14 (Walter Twp.), 2/24 (6, Perry Twp.).

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) — [4 North, 1 South] High counts 2/4 Polk (250) NGE, 1/28 Wilkin (50) RGJ. All other north reports: 12/29 Norman PBB, DWR, 1/5 Wilkin (15) CMN, 1/27 Clay (18) PBB. All south reports: 12/21 Lac Qui Parle (9) PBB, 12/18 Lac Qui Parle (2, Plover Prairie) BJU.

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) — [13 North, 30 South] This species continues to expand and thrive statewide except Northeast as reflected by reports from a record 43 counties. The CBC total of 4,706 is up 148% over 2006 and 502% over the 20-year average. High count 1/28 Sherburne (143) PLJ.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) — [2 North, 2 South] North reports 12/2 Itasca (one lingering on the Mississippi River at Cohasset) *vide* JWJ, 12/23 Beltrami DPJ. Late south 12/3 Washington CRM, 12/8 Washington BAF, 1/4 Rice PHI. Also reported on Excelsior and North St. Paul CBCs.

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) — [1 North, 1 South] All north 1/7 St. Louis (2, Lake Superior along Scenic 61) JWJ. All south 12/15–16 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) PEJ.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) — [1 North] All north reports from Two Harbors in Lake: 12/2 (6 at Agate Bay) JWJ, 12/11 (Agate Bay) JWJ, 12/27 (same bird as early December, Burlington Bay) JWJ.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) — [2 South] All reports: 1/12–2/23 Ramsey/Dakota (1 injured, near Pig's Eye) BAF, BNW.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) — [1 North, 4 South] Reported north on Fergus Falls CBC. Present

in Dakota (4 at Black Dog Lake) until 1/16 PEJ, BAF. Found in Ramsey 2/2 (adult, Pig's Eye), 2/16 (immature, Pig's Eye) BAF and on the St. Paul NE Suburban CBC.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) — [9 South] Reported on Wilmar, Faribault, and Austin CBCs. January through mid-February reports: 1/12, 1/16 and 2/16 Ramsey (2, near Pig's Eye) BAF; 1/26, 2/19 Sherburne (2) ASC. Probable first migrants 2/23 Ramsey (11, Pig's Eye) BAF, 2/25 Olmsted (Rochester) JWH.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) — [1 South] Late fall migrant **12/2** Cottonwood (Windom) †BRB.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) — [23 North, 34 South] Reported from eight fewer counties than last year, but still second highest winter county total. The relatively severe winter conditions no doubt affected distribution and densities somewhat. Of interest is the high count 1/15 Morrison (approximately 50 near Buckman feeding on offal from a chicken plant) *vide* RPR. The sheer number of records (292) by 72 observers reflects this species' current thriving status.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) — [4 South] All south 12/2 Dakota (male over Black Dog Park) BAF, 12/3 Dakota CRM, 12/4 Meeker DMF, 12/29 Freeborn AEB, 1/30 Stearns MDN (overwintering?).

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) — [8 North, 22 South] All January reports (a few with details): 1/10 St. Louis (Sax-Zim Bog) KRE, 1/13 Itasca ph. SLL, 1/24 Isanti CKB, 1/30 St. Louis (Lake-wood Twp.) *vide* JWJ, 1/6 Hennepin (2, female and juv. at Hiawatha Park) BAF, 1/9 Dakota JPM, 1/16 Olmsted (Rochester) JWH, 1/25 Fillmore NBO, 1/27 Hennepin (Mound Springs Park) DWK, 1/28 Anoka CKB.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) — [3 North, 19 South] Majority of reports were without details. All north reports 12/15 St.

Louis (Duluth CBC) *fide* JWL, 1/25 Otter Tail (imm. at Battle Lake; size, eye color, tail shape well described) DTT, 2/9 Crow Wing †JSB. January reports south 1/5 Sibley RMD, 1/11 Lac Qui Parle (adult, Hantho Twp.) BJU, 1/20 Sibley JCC, 1/23 Dakota (adult, Fischer Ave. and 210th) JPM, 1/29 Stearns (size of crow, Waite Park) MDN.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) — [7 North, 6 South] Again this season, no details provided for any reports, even though immatures can pose significant ID challenges. In fact, of 23 reports, only one adult mentioned: 12/27 Pine MCA.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) — [11 South] January reports of at least eleven different individuals from Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Sherburne, and Washington. A total of 16 recorded on ten CBCs statewide, double that of the most recent 20-year average.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) — [11 North, 38 South] Numerous reports south of a line from East Grand Forks to Duluth. For the fifth consecutive year, presumably the same dark-morph adult was seen 1/12 at SKB Industries west of Hastings. Noteworthy was a dark phase *B. j. barlani* viewed from Read's Landing 2/24 Wabasha DWK. Also of interest were 41 birds counted 1/23 between Meeker (Litchfield) and Mille Lacs (Princeton) DMF.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) — [9 North, 33 South] Few north reports (none Northwest) plus the increase south reflect the severe winter conditions and snow cover. High count 12/27 Pine (13) MCA. A total of 147 on 37 CBCs statewide is an increase of 49% over the recent 20-year average. Numerous dark morphs reported. Ten birds in one hour on 2/17 Rice likely were migrants DBM.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) — [2 North, 6 South] Total of ten individuals reported. All north: 12/13 Cass (Lower 10

Mile Lake Road) BAW, 2/13 Aitkin (juv.) †DPG. All south: 12/3 Lac Qui Parle (adult, Lac Qui Parle Lake) BJU, 12/8 Goodhue (juv., Colishan Rd.) Ddo, LEC, 12/24 Meeker (Sec. 8, Forest City Twp.) DMF, 2/1 Lac Qui Parle (subadult, Sec. 6, Hantho Twp.) BJU, 2/11–23 Wabasha JWH ASc, 2/12 Meeker (Sec. 4, Dassel Twp.) DMF. Also, one reported on the Winona CBC.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) — [5 North, 29 South] Normal number of reports, but none north of a line from Clay to Mille Lacs counties.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) — [5 North, 11 South] A total 24 individuals reported.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) — [2 North, 9 South] Reports away from usual Duluth and Twin Cities sites include: 12/9 Scott (Valleyfair Amusement Park) DWK, 12/15 Fillmore CWG, 1/7 Lac Qui Parle (immature, Bellingham) BJU, 2/10 Itasca (large female, Grand Rapids) DAY, 2/24 Wabasha (Read's Landing) DWK. Found also on six CBCs.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) — [3 North, 9 South] Overwintered St. Louis (1 at Silver Lake in Virginia) SLF, Scott (39 at Blue Lake W.T.P. and Mill Pond) PEJ, and Wright (Mississippi River swan viewing area) BAF, DMF.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) — [2 South] All south 12/8 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) DWK, 1/4 Rice (2) PHI.

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) — [3 South] All reports 12/31 Washington SMC, 1/19 Winona (Whitewater W.M.A.) JWH, 2/11 Steele NFT.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) — [6 South] Compared to the last decade or so and indicative of the more severe winter, Twin Cities metro area gull numbers diminished earlier with only one Ring-billed reported in January (1/1 Dakota BAF). Statewide, only 18 individuals recorded on three CBCs (Bloomington, Red



Ross's Gull, 15 December 2007, South St. Paul, Dakota County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

Wing, North St. Paul), representing a mere 2.1 percent of the recent 20-year average!

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) — [4 North, 9 South] Overwintered St. Louis and Lake. High count north 1/12 St. Louis (1,540 in Duluth harbor) PHS. High count south: 12/8 Dakota (2,000 at Black Dog Lake) BAF. Statewide total for CBCs down 14% percent from 20-year average.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) — [2 North, 4 South] A total of six individuals recorded on three CBCs (Bloomington, Duluth, Two Harbors). At least 2 or 3 adults reported during most of period in Duluth PHS, KRE, DMF plus another adult 12/16 Lake (Two Harbors) *fide* JWL. One first- and one second-cycle bird reported 1/12, 1/27 St. Louis (Duluth) PHS, KRE. High count 12/8 Dakota (5, four adults and one first-cycle at Black Dog Lake) PEB. All south January reports: 1/5 Dakota (adult, Mississippi River below I-494 bridge) BAF, 1/9 Dakota (adult at Lock and Dam #2 near Hastings) JPM, BRL.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) — [1 North, 1 South] Two north reports: 1/13 St. Louis (first-cycle near the W.L.S.S.D.

treatment plant in Duluth) †PHS, 1/27 St. Louis (third-cycle, Duluth harbor) †KRE. Though missing Feb., the third-cycle bird was refound 3/2 †PHS. One south report 12/8 Dakota (Black Dog Lake, probably same subadult seen 11/29; see fall report) †PEB.

SLATY-BACKED GULL (*Larus schistisagus*) — [1 North] Adult in definitive basic plumage 1/10, 1/12, 1/13, 1/27 **St. Louis** (Duluth) ph. JWL, ph. †PHS, MLH (*The Loon* 80:171–173). Presumably the same adult frequented the Superior Landfill in Douglas County, Wisconsin, 12/21 through 4/12 KJB, m.ob., but the only sighting in Minnesota after January was 3/15 †PHS. Fourth state record.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) — [2 North, 3 South] Numerous reports from St. Louis throughout the period. High count north 1/12 St. Louis (18 in Duluth harbor: 11 first-cycle, 1 second-cycle, 2 third-cycle, 4 adults) PHS. Many south reports through mid-January at usual sites in Dakota and Washington. High count south 12/8 Dakota (7 at Black Dog Lake: 5 1st/2nd-cycle, 2 adults) BAF, PEB. Only recorded on Bloomington CBC (3).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) — [1 North] A second-cycle bird reported 1/12–2/2+ St. Louis (Duluth harbor) probably was the same individual seen the prior two months at the Superior, WI landfill and at Two Harbors (Lake Co.) †PHS, ph. †KRE.

ROSS'S GULL (*Rhodostethia rosea*) — [3 South] Certainly the highlight of the season was this third state record basic adult photographed near Grand and Hardman Avenues on the Mississippi River on 12/15 in South St. Paul ph. †BAF, ph. †DAC, ph. †AXH, †JPM, ph. †PHS (*The Loon* 80:174). Seen by a relatively small number of birders, the gull unfortunately departed the area at nightfall and could not be relocated the following day despite intensive searching. During its brief visit, the diminutive arctic gull obligingly added three



Inca Dove, 1 November 2007, Two Harbors, Lake County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

new county records — **Dakota**, **Ramsey**, and **Washington** (*The Loon* 80:108–110).

IVORY GULL (*Pagophila eburnea*) — [1 North] Second only to the above Ross's Gull, both in terms of rarity (less than a dozen Accepted records) and frustration to many birders, was this first-cycle individual found 1/7 St. Louis (Canal Park, Duluth) ph. †PHS, ph. †JWL, ph. †KRE, ph. MSS, ph. PSw. The gull was seen and photographed by only a few lucky birders for about two hours before it lifted off and departed the area.

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) — [22 North, 41 South] Reported statewide. A CBC total of 18,598 is 138 percent of 20-year average.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) — [8 South] The total of 35 on CBCs is almost half the cumulative CBC total of 74 prior to this season (not reported in state until 1998)! Nineteen of these were tallied on the Morris CBC. New county record 12/6 **Meeker** (2, Cosmos) DMF. Also of interest were 12/2 Brown (34, highest count reported, at the Comfrey grain elevator) BTS, 1/5 Dakota (8, Oak and Division St., Farmington) DAB,

1/27 Goodhue (Bombay) JWH, 2/16 Martin (2, Darwin Anthony farm) DBM, 2/29 Sibley (25, Winthrop) RMD.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) — [12 North, 30 South] Unusual winter record 12/20 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R. feeder) *vide* JMJ. A CBC total of 2,065 represents a 123% increase over the 20-year average.

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*) — [1 North] This first state record individual was first reported 10/30 Lake (Two Harbors). The bird survived a 14-inch snowstorm on 12/2 and several nights of below zero temperatures. It was last observed 12/5 *vide* JWL (*The Loon* 84:54–55).

Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) — [13 South] Reported primarily from the central and eastern counties throughout the southern portion of the state along with Redwood County in the Southwest (Lamberton CBC). No reports from the West-central or far southwestern counties. This was also the first year of no north reports (including CBCs) for the winter season since 1988–1989. CBC high count Rochester (4). Probably overwintered 12/1–2/29 Ramsey AXH (gray morph). All other reports: Blue Earth, Dakota (gray morph MAO, JPM, ADS), Freeborn, Hennepin, Houston (brown morph FZL), and McLeod (gray morph DMF).

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) — [10 North, 22 South] Widely scattered reports throughout the state, missing only from the far southwestern and central northernmost counties. CBC high count Rochester (16). Unusual was a well-photographed individual most likely of the pale northern interior race *subarcticus* 1/27 Hennepin ph. DWK, along the Bluff Trail at Minnesota Valley N.W.R. Another pale individual was reported 2/23 Lincoln DBM, without details.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) — [6 North, 9 South] Reported throughout the season from 12/6 –2/28, but only 19 indi-

viduals reported, down from 47 last year. In the north, reports were concentrated in a triangle from Polk south to Clay, Wilkin and Otter Tail Counties, and then across the state to Aitkin and St. Louis (Duluth). In the south, reports extended in a broad band from Swift, Chippewa and Renville in the western regions east to Anoka and Wabasha. Far south was an individual 12/9 in Martin SaL. Frequently reported was one bird near the Duluth Airport 12/22–2/3 MSS, PHS, m.ob. This year two birds were seen at the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport 12/15–1/27 JCC, DWK, m.ob.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia uhula*)

— [4 North] Down slightly from last year and concentrated in the North-central and Northeast regions. Individuals were reported 1/12–13, 2/2 and 2/7 Cass ABi, BAW, and 2/8 RBW; 2/6 Itasca SC; and 1/27 Aitkin *fide* JWJ and east to St. Louis. Probably overwintered 12/14–2/17 St. Louis in the Sax-Zim Bog *fide* JWJ, MHe, m.ob. Also frequently reported was an individual near the Duluth Airport 12/15–1/26 St. Louis m.ob.

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) — [10 North, 20 South] Reports spanned the season and were concentrated in the central and eastern regions, with the majority coming from the southern regions as usual. The only reports from the western regions were on the Battle Lake and Fergus Falls CBCs, both in Otter Tail County. CBC high count Austin (10).

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) — [6 North] Scattered reports of individuals reported from an arc through the Northwest and North-central regions from approx. 1/14 Lake of the Woods JBi to 2/12 Red Lake SAS, south to 1/8 Hubbard *fide* JMj. A higher concentration of reports came from the east, primarily in St. Louis in the Sax-Zim Bog area, m.ob. Unusual was the report of a dark plumaged individual near Biwabik at the Giant's Ridge ski area 12/28 St. Louis PEB. Farthest south was an individual on the Pine County CBC. The only additional CBC reports came from



Nesting Great Horned Owl, 16 February 2007, Circle Pines, Anoka County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzler.

Grand Rapids and Grand Marais.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) — [1 North, 9 South] Only report north was 12/5 St. Louis CEd. In the south, reports were in a scattered band from Lac Qui Parle County south to Cottonwood County, and east to Washington County and south to Winona County. All reports: 12/2 Carver (2, Carver Park Reserve) DWK, 12/9 Carver (Grimm Farm area) JCC, 2/2 Anoka (Carlos Avery W.M.A.) AXH, 2/6 Meeker DMF, 2/23 Lyon (3, Lines W.M.A.) DBM, and 2/24 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Observed on only three CBCs, Cottonwood, Warren (3) and Winona.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) — [2 North, 8 South] Numbers were significantly down from the remarkable 65 birds reported last winter. In the north, the only reports were from the far Northwest, 2/8 Roseau *fide* JMj and 2/23 Kittson LW. In the west, reports were scattered beginning 12/3 (Walter Twp.) and 12/27 (Manfred Twp.) Lac Qui Parle BJU, and 1/10 Cottonwood BRB. Reports were more concentrated in the East-central region with



Northern Saw-whet Owl, 25 December 2007, St. Paul, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

12/27 Anoka AXH and 2/12 Hennepin JCy. Observed on only two CBCs, St. Paul NE Suburban and Faribault.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) — [1 North] Only report 2/17 of two calling birds from Fishhook Island on Seagull Lake at the end of the Gunflint Trail (C.R. 12) in Cook County (JHo).

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) — [1 North, 9 South] Only report north and first winter report for this county, 2/25 Polk BDF. In the south, all reports were from the central and eastern regions, with another first winter report 2/19 Stearns HHD. High count 12/20 Ramsey (2) AXH. Also reported 12/24 Ramsey AXH (different location than 12/20), 12/29 Washington AXH, 1/12 Rice DAB, 1/26 Hennepin RoB, 1/27 Ramsey AXH and Rice DAB (different location than 1/12),

2/2 Anoka AXH, 2/3 Washington AXH (different location than 12/29), 2/14 Blue Earth ChH, 2/23 Rice JLO (one of the birds seen earlier?). Only two CBC reports, from Faribault and Rochester.

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) — [3 North, 13 South] Reports spanned the entire season although no observers specifically referenced possible overwintering individuals. All reports north 12/18 Cass BAW, 1/17 Isanti CKB, and one 2/27 St. Louis SLF, which was considered an early spring migrant. In the south, reports were concentrated from the central and eastern regions in a triangle from Ramsey southwest to Brown, then southeast to Houston. The only reports from the western regions were on the Otter Tail and Lac Qui Parle CBCs. CBC high count Winona (4).

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) — [1 North, 9 South] Only report north 1/9 Otter Tail *fide* MJM. Widely scattered reports south from 12/8 Fillmore (2) JCC, 12/16 Anoka SMC, 12/20 Anoka RBW, 12/27 Lac Qui Parle (juv.) BJU. Additional south CBC reports from Ramsey, Sherburne, Steele, and Winona. CBC high count was from Cedar Creek Bog (29), a remarkable total.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) — [17 North, 33 South] Reports down slightly from last winter, but only in the south. Consistent numbers north likely represents ongoing range expansion in that region. Scattered reports spanning the season from across the state and missing only from the very far northwestern, northeastern and southwestern counties. Well represented on CBCs, with high counts from St. Paul NE Suburban (67) and Bloomington (66).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) — [1 North, 6 South] Only report north, and a new county winter record, 12/15 and 1/1 Pennington (imm.) ph. MJM. A few scattered reports across the south including 12/8 and 12/17 (Bloomington

CBC) Hennepin ph. ESt, 12/30 (and earlier) and 1/20 Waseca ph. LBo, and 2/13 Redwood ph. PBB. The editor and compilers appreciate the efforts from observers to document reports of this species in winter with photographs. Sapsuckers can pose an identification challenge at the species level, and also include the possibility of hybrid individuals. Also see Undocumented Reports.

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) — [25 North, 35 South] Reports down from last year, but higher than the previous five-year average. Seen in most regions statewide, but missing from the far southwestern counties. Seen on every CBC in the state with the high count from St. Paul NE Suburban (223).

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) — [24 North, 33 South] Reports down slightly from last year, but still higher than the previous five-year average. Seen in most regions statewide, but missing from the far southwestern counties. Seen on every CBC in the state, with the high count from Duluth (93).

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*) — [8 North] Reported county total was down slightly, but the irruption first noted last year became a full-scale invasion based on the number of birds observed. At minimum, a staggering **35** individuals were reported! Up nearly double the 19 reported last year. Reports were from the North-central and Northeast regions only and included 12/17 Cass (2) DAY, 12/29 Wadena HHD, several reports at various locations in Aitkin 1/4–2/11 m.ob., and 1/27 Itasca SC. St. Louis accounted for nearly one-third of all the reports with numerous birds observed in the Sax-Zim Bog area from 12/28–2/24 m.ob. Away from Sax-Zim on 1/12 St. Louis (3, a male at Manganika Lake continuing from the fall season, another male a mile farther south, and a female about half-way between these locations) SLF, 12/8 Lake (White Pines picnic area along C.R. 2) *fide* JWJL, 12/15 Lake (Spruce Rd.)



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 15 December 2007, Minneapolis, Hennepin County. Photo by Liz Stanley.

SES, and 1/5 Lake (Little Lake Rd. west of the Birch Lake Dam) *fide* JWJL. Lastly, 2/17 Cook (2, in a burned area on Fishhook Island on Seagull Lake) *fide* JWJL. Also observed on the following CBCs: Beltrami Island N.F. (4), Duluth (2), Grand Marais (2), Grand Rapids, Virginia (2, one bird from Manganika Lake, above), with the high count from Rice Lake N.W.R. (5).

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) — [10 North, 1 South] Reported from within normal range across the north, including 1/20 and 2/2 Cass (different locations) BAW, 12/30–2/11 Aitkin (various locations) m.ob., 12/9–2/24 St. Louis (various locations) m.ob., 12/16–2/17 Lake (various locations) m.ob., 2/16 and 2/17 Cook (different locations) *fide* JWJL. Farthest south were reports on 2/3 Pine DSe, and the Cedar Creek Bog CBC which strattles Isanti and Anoka Counties. Also



Northern Shrike imprint, 23 February 2008, White Bear Lake, Ramsey County. Photo by Steven C. Hansen.

observed on several CBCs including Beltrami Island N.F. (2), Carlton, and Roseau, from counties not previously mentioned. High counts were 12/15 Duluth CBC (3), 12/23 Aitkin (3) *fide* JWJL, 12/25 Lake (3) GSe, 2/24 St. Louis (3) LS, and Itasca S.P. CBC (3).

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) — [4 North, 34 South] All reports north include the Crookston, Little Falls, and Philbrook CBCs, and also 12/12 and 1/24 Otter Tail (same bird?) DTT. Widespread across the south, missing only from the Southwest region. Possibly overwintering 12/14 “through at least early March” Dakota SWe. CBC high counts Faribault (11) and Mankato (11). One bird reported on the Mankato CBC was of the “red-shafted” race.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) — [23 North, 32 South] Reported throughout the season and within range statewide, missing only from the South-

west region. CBC high count St. Paul NE Suburban (47).

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) — [1 North] Only report 12/9 Itasca (Swan River) EEO. As always, the editor and compilers request that ANY out-of-season observations be carefully documented.

Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) — [26 North, 40 South] Reports up from last year, and the highest number of reports since 2004 (59 counties). Several county reports from the Southwest, where this species is typically scarce, including 12/22 Redwood PBB, 2/16 Murray, Cottonwood and Jackson DBM, and 2/23 Lyon DBM. CBC high counts Rice Lake N.W.R. (14) and Rochester (13).

Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) — [12 North] Reports were all within range but up slightly from the previous five-year average, perhaps echoing the irruption first noted last year. Seen in every northern



Tufted Titmouse, 5 December 2007, Burnsville, Dakota County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

county from Kittson and Marshall in the Northwest, southeast to Pine, but missing from Koochiching (lack of birder coverage?). CBC high count Isabella (41).

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) — [25 North, 37 South] Reported statewide with numbers down slightly from last year. CBC high count Rochester (262).

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) — [12 North] Reported from within normal range, and the same number of counties as the previous two years. CBC high count Roseau (4).

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) — [26 North, 42 South] Reports down slightly from last year, but still reported statewide. Seen on every CBC in the state except the Isabella count. CBC high count Rochester (1,414).

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) — [22 North, 4 South] Reported within range in

the north. In the south, numerous reports spanning 12/8–2/17 Sherburne ASC and m.ob. Also observed on the Cedar Creek Bog CBC (Anoka/Isanti) and 2/16 Stearns MJB. CBC high count Grand Marais (367).

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) — [12 North, 36 South] Reports were up slightly over last year. In the north, lingering migrants were reported 12/16 Morrison HDD. Likely returning migrants were first noted 2/2 Otter Tail HDD. In the south, reports were from all regions and throughout the season with early north-bound migrants being indistinguishable from wintering birds. No significant high counts noted during the migration period. CBC high count Mountain Lake/Windom (1,527).

Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) — [28 North, 37 South] Reports down slightly from last year, but from throughout the season and all regions statewide. Seen on every CBC in the state,

with the high count from Duluth (2,587).

Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonica*) — [5 North] Distribution more confined than the 10 counties reporting each of the past two years. Reported infrequently 12/23–1/26 Hubbard (2, first seen 1/19 at the same location) PBB, m.ob., 1/27 Cass BAW, numerous reports 12/15–2/24 St. Louis (Duluth and Sax-Zim Bog areas) m.ob., and infrequently 12/15–2/18 Lake m.ob. High count was 1/16 St. Louis (6) MCA. Only reported from one CBC away from St. Louis and Lake Counties: Grand Rapids (1).

Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) — [9 South] One spent the entire season in Martin (Trimont) ph. †DBA, †BRB, DBM. Also unusual were reports from the Wild River CBC in Chisago, 1/1+ Rice (Northfield) †LEF, GDB, and three locations in Dakota: 12/5–1/20 (Burnsville) DAC, m.ob., from the Hastings/Etter CBC and afterwards 12/ 29–1/6 (Nininger Twp.) m.ob., and in December (Apple Valley) JSw. CBC high count from Winona (22). Within its usual Southeast range, reported throughout the season.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) — [26 North, 31 South] Reports up from last year and observed in all regions statewide. CBC high count Duluth (202).

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) — [26 North, 39 South] Reports down slightly from last year, but still observed in all regions statewide. Seen on every CBC except the Isabella count. CBC high counts were Bloomington (231) and St. Paul NE Suburban (230).

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) — [10 North, 32 South] Reports up slightly from last year, primarily in the south. Overwintered 12/1–2/28 Anoka RLR, where seen on alternating days throughout the period visiting a suet feeder. CBC high count Faribault (21).

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovi-*

cianus) — [3 South] All reports: 12/1 Fillmore JDe, Ramsey LMS, 12/12 (St. Paul CBC count week) †JPS, 1/16 Olmsted JWH. Observed on only one CBC, Rochester (1; same bird as 1/16?).

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) — [1 South] Only report 1/27 Hennepin (2 at Mound Springs Park, Bloomington) DWK.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) — [5 North, 2 South] All reports north include CBCs Roseau (2), Crosby (2), Duluth (2), and Lake (1), plus 1/14 Pine MCA. Two reports south 12/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU, and 1/6 Brown BTS.

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) — [1 North, 13 South] Only report north 12/13 St. Louis DOK. Reports south were concentrated in the eastern most counties of the East-central and Southeast regions, from Washington to Houston, and scattered through the South-central region. Also 12/22 Redwood (6) †PBB (same as Redwood Falls CBC?) in the Southwest. Reports 2/23 Dakota JLO and 2/24 Olmsted (10) DAB possibly represent early spring migrants. CBC high count Wabasha (26).

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) — [1 North] Only report a female at the Grand Marais Coast Guard station 12/18 Cook *fide* JWL. This is possibly one of the birds present there in November (see fall report).

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) — [6 North, 9 South] Reports up from last year and widely scattered across the state, missing only from the West-central and Southwest regions. New county record: 1/1 **Todd** (Phillbrook CBC) ph. †FGo, CGo, HDD. North reports include 12/15–16 Clay DWR and Fargo/Moorhead CBC (possibly the same bird found 11/13 and continuing to 1/5); several reports from the Northeast region along the North Shore and Duluth from 12/8–2/29 m.ob.; and 12/23–1/7 Beltrami (Bemidji, first found by JAM during Bemidji

CBC) m.ob. Possibly overwintering birds south include: Sherburne ASC, from the Ann Lake area, where seen infrequently from the fall season until 2/26; Olmsted where reported near Oronoco 11/17 (2), 12/15 (one on Rochester CBC, ph. †RLE, DMA), and last reported 1/20 CRM; and 12/10–2/17 Ramsey (Science Museum of Minnesota) ph. AdB, PTh, DOe, m.ob. Additional reports 12/5 and 2/23 Hennepin MaS and RLa, respectively; 1/16–2/9 Washington JiG, PWS; 2/3–17 Blue Earth (Minneopa S.P.) ph. †ChH m.ob; 2/23 Meeker DMF; 2/24 Kandiyohi RSF; and from Carver m.ob. CBC high count Excelsior (4).

Hermit Thrush (*Catbarus guttatus*) — [1 South] Only report 12/28 Hennepin (feeding station in Golden Valley) ALD.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) — [13 North, 32 South] Widely scattered reports from all regions statewide. CBC high count St. Paul NE Suburban (592).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) — [4 North, 2 South] A total of 7 birds from 6 counties, the lowest number of reports since winter 2003–2004, when only 5 birds were reported. All reports 11/28–2/23 St. Louis (east Duluth) *fide* JWL, m.ob., 12/3 Becker (Tamarac N.W.R.) WBr, 12/4 Becker (Big Sugar Bush Lake) *fide* WBr, 12/5 (possibly earlier) St. Louis (north of Chisholm in Angora) *fide* JWL, 12/6 Mahnomen (McCrane Lake) *fide* JMj, 12/8 Beltrami (Turtle River Lake) *fide* JMj, 1/22 (possibly earlier)–2/26 Mille Lacs ASC, m.ob. and the Henderson CBC.

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) — [2 North] Two reports: 12/15+ Morrison (near Bowlus) †FGo, CGo, 2/27 St. Louis (Duluth) *fide* JWL.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) — [2 South] Only reports Bloomington CBC and 12/22 Kandiyohi PBB.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — [21 North, 42 South] Reported from all re-

gions statewide. CBC high count St. Paul North (2,110).

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) — [20 North, 4 South] Reports up slightly from last year. Widespread across the north with reports spanning the season, m.ob. Several flocks numbered in the 100s, including 12/1 Lake (614) JWL, 12/9 St. Louis (400) SZi, and 12/19 Cook (400) *fide* JWL. In the south “flocks” were much smaller and reports limited to 12/27 Lac Qui Parle (4) BJU, 12/4–2/11 Sherburne ASC m.ob., 12/7 Stearns (6) RPR, 1/5 Meeker (11) DMF, and at a different location 1/19 and 2/6 Meeker (3, Litchfield) DMF. CBC high count Duluth (987).

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) — [13 North, 29 South] Scattered reports from all regions north, with only two reports after January: 2/2 Clay HHD, 2/17 Wadena (24) PJB. Widespread in the south with reports concentrated in the Central and East-central regions throughout the season. CBC high count Rochester (868).

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) — [4 South] Reported for four of the last five winter seasons. The season with no report was 2004–2005. All reports 1/7 and 1/19 Meeker DMF, 1/13 and 1/16 Olmsted JWH, and 1/26 Dakota HHD. No observer indicated that any of these birds overwintered.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) — [11 North, 35 South] Reports down slightly from last year, but across a broad swath of the state from Beltrami and Hubbard Counties in the north, southwest to Traverse and Lac Qui Parle Counties in the West-central region, then southeast to Washington County in the East-central region, and Martin in the South-central region, and east to Houston County. Also found in St. Louis and Cook counties in the Northeast. CBC high counts were Winona (436) and Bloomington (431).

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)



Chipping Sparrow, 31 January 2008, Mower County. Photo by Chuck Meyer.

— [1 South] One report on the Rochester CBC was documented. Most unusual was a well photographed individual **1/31** Mower ph. †CMY.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — [1 South] One report **12/9** McLeod (2) †JCC was the fifth state winter record, with the last such observation in 2002.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) — [8 South] All reports 12/1 Washington TEB, 12/9 Brown BTS, 12/29 Meeker DMF, 1/5 Washington (2) BRL (overwintering?), and 2/28 Rice TFB, probably an overwintering bird. CBC high count Bloomington (4).

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) — [2 North, 14 South] All reports north 12/3 St. Louis FKB, 12/22 St. Louis MLH, and on the Detroit Lakes CBC. Scattered throughout the south and reported on several CBCs. High count was from the New Ulm CBC (15).

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) — [1 North, 2 South] Only reports 12/1 Lake (at feeder in Castle Danger) JWJ, 12/8 Scott (Wilkie Unit, Minnesota Valley

N.W.R.) DWK, and the Excelsior CBC.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) — [6 North, 14 South] Widely scattered reports north from Clay and Clearwater in the western and central regions to the northeast, primarily on CBCs. Noteworthy are reports from 12/5 and 12/13 Clearwater KLa, and 12/30 Pine (rest stop feeder, along I-35 near Sturgeon Lake) TPW. Reports were also scattered across the south. Overwintering was noted 12/10–2/29 Ramsey AXH and 12/1–2/29 Dakota (2, with one bird surviving a predation attempt in mid-December and making a complete recovery) ADS. Possibly overwintering 12/1–2/11 Anoka DPG and 12/25, 1/1 and 2/18 Meeker TNe. CBC high count Bloomington (8).

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) — [4 North, 8 South] Widely scattered reports from around the state. Late north 12/2 Cook CJT, 12/8–1/22 Lake JWJ, m.ob. (overwintering?), and the latest and probably overwintering 2/18 Polk *fide* JMJ. High count 12/4–1/1 Clay (3, all dates?) RHO, m.ob. In the south, one possibly overwintering 1/14, 1/28 and 2/3 Houston (feeder 5 miles northwest of Houston)

KAK. Late migrants included 12/2 Dakota BAF, 12/4 Wright CFA, 12/13 Steele NFT, and 12/22 Redwood PBB.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) — [1 North, 5 South] Only report north was from the Grand Marais CBC. All south reports include 12/21 Dakota (Burnsville) DEn, 12/25 Meeker TNe, 12/28 Washington LMS, and probable overwintering 2/28 Rice TFB. Overwintering reported 1/7–2/29 Dakota (2 in Empire Twp.) ph. BSe, m.ob. Both were immature birds and particularly interesting as each appeared to belong to different subspecies: one, the dark lored *Z. l. leucophrys*, and the other, a pale lored *Z. l. gambelii*. Also recorded on the Hutchinson (2) CBC.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) — [22 North, 39 South] Reported from all regions statewide and throughout the season. Several observations of the “Oregon” race, *J. h. thurberi*, were noted, including several from CBCs. The CBC high count of this form was from Fargo (5). The CBC high count of the “Slate-colored”, or unspecified races, was Winona (1,303). Overwintering was specifically noted in Ramsey (8) AXH. Undocumented was a “Pink-sided” individual, a race still not conclusively known in the state.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) — [8 North, 25 South] Widely scattered reports north, where unexpected in winter, including 12/29 Roseau (2) JMJ, 1/21 Aitkin (Tamarack) KRE, and 2/2 Clay HHD. Additional reports from a few CBCs, with the high count from Crookston (63). Reports were down in the south compared with last year, but spread throughout the region. The CBC high count south was from Marshall (80). Reports after mid-January were scarce, with no significant migration movements noted: 1/22 Renville SWe, 1/23 Lac Qui Parle (35) BJU, Sherburne DMF, 1/27 Dakota (60) JPM, 2/16 Waseca RBW, 2/24 Olmsted DAB, JWH.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) — [26 North, 36 South] Number of reports

was consistent with the past two years. Reported in all regions north, with significant numbers still being noted well into December, some perhaps late southbound migrants, including 12/20 Cass (500) DAY, 12/21 Wilkin (210) PBB and 12/31 Wadena (135) PJB. The first north reports indicating probable returning migrants were 1/26 Pennington (200) JMJ, 2/4 Polk (100) NGE and 2/7 Clay (100) CMN. Also reported from all regions in the south, with significant flocks 12/6 Renville/ Meeker (1000) DMF, and 12/3 Lac Qui Parle (370) BJU. CBC high count Bluestem (1,525).

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) — [18 North, 38 South] Number of reports about the same as last year. Reported from all regions statewide, and only missing from the extreme Northwest, North-central, and the extreme Southwest counties. Consistent numbers north likely represent ongoing range expansion in that region. CBC high count Rochester (358).

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) — [4 North, 23 South] All reports north 12/1–2 St. Louis (Virginia, continuing from fall, an injured bird that likely perished after a heavy snowfall) SLF, and 12/27 Otter Tail *vide* JMJ. Perhaps this same bird was from one of the three Otter Tail County CBCs reporting this species, Battle Lake (10), Detroit Lakes, or Fergus Falls (40). Other north CBCs reporting were Long Prairie and Little Falls. Widespread across the south in all regions. High count 1/9 Blue Earth (2,000) RMD, higher than the combined total of all the CBCs statewide.

Sturnella sp. — [7 South] All reports: 12/13,12/24 and 1/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU; 12/18 Yellow Medicine BRB; 1/5 and 1/27 Brown (9) BTS; and 1/17 Steele NFT. Also reported on the following CBCs: Fairmont (1), Jackson (2) and Wabasha (1).

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) — [1 South] Very rare in winter was a male at a feeder 12/31 Hennepin ph. †SMo.

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) — [1 North, 9 South] Only north report 2/2 Mille Lacs ASC. All south reports: 1/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 1/10 Freeborn AEB, 1/11, 2/2 Blue Earth ChH, 1/27 Nicollet (7 Mile Creek County Park) WCM, 2/16 Blue Earth RMD, 1/20 McLeod (12) and Sibley (35) JCC, and 2/23 Lincoln (2) DBM, probably representing early migrants. Also recorded on the Henderson (2), Lac Qui Parle, Lamberton (6), and Winona (6) CBCs.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) — [1 North] Two individuals were documented in Todd during the Long Prairie CBC.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) — [4 North, 23 South] Only reports north 12/2–23 Otter Tail DTT, and the Baudette, Crookston (2) and Long Prairie CBCs. Scattered reports from throughout the south, but concentrated in the Central region. Flocks of late migrants noted beginning 12/3 Lac Qui Parle (160) BJU, dwindling in numbers there through January. Numerous CBC reports with the high count Albert Lea (74). No reports of overwintering birds or early returning migrants. Last report 2/4 Stearns (3) MDN.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) — [5 South] High count 1/17–1/21 Scott (54) SMi. All other reports: 1/17 Steele (15) NFT; 1/19 (2), 2/8 (19) and 2/24 Hennepin (Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) DWK, CMB, and BAF, respectively; and 1/19 (38) and 2/16 LeSueur RMD. Both February reports probably indicate overwintering birds and not early migrants.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) — [24 North, 2 South] Reported within range and throughout the season, with the highest number of counties reporting from the past five years. All south reports: Cedar Creek Bog CBC (1), and 1/26 Sherburne (Ann Lake) NSc. CBC high count was from Cook (217).

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*)

— [12 North, 28 South] Highest number of reports since the 2003–2004 Winter Season. Reports were concentrated throughout the central and southern regions, with these exceptions north 12/15 Kittson LW, the Crookston CBC (11), and 1/24 St. Louis MCA. CBC high count Cook (90), well below the four digit counts from two years ago.

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) — [12 North, 33 South] Reports were down slightly from last year, which had a record number of reports. CBC high count was from Rochester (253).

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) — [10 North, 2 South] Reports up only slightly over last year, and overall still relatively scarce. Reports north were concentrated in the North-central and Northeast regions, with only the Roseau CBC (7) reporting in the Northwest. All reports south were from the western region 12/2 Lac Qui Parle (13, Walter Twp.) BJU, and 2/22 Murray (12) DBz. CBC high counts were Aurora (43) and Pine (43, of which 17 were noted as being of the “large-billed race”).

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) — [8 North, 2 South] Numbers significantly lower than last year. In the north most reports were from St. Louis and Lake counties, m.ob., nearly spanning the season. Additional reports included 1/14 Pine MCA and 2/10 Cass (3) DAY. All reports south 12/30 Swift (1, Appleton Cemetery) BJU, and a count week observation from the St. Paul NE Suburban CBC. CBC high count Two Harbors (104).

Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) — [25 North, 20 South] Reports north similar to last year and from all regions. South reports were up significantly and widely scattered across the region. Overall numbers remained relatively low, with the CBC high count from Bemidji (296). The last significant invasion was the winter of 2003–2004. Perhaps we're due for another?

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) — [4 North] All documented reports include 12/18 Cass †BAW, 1/1 St. Louis (Britt) †KRS, 1/19 Itasca †WBa, CoK, 1/30–2/24 St. Louis (3 in Sax-Zim Bog at Blue Spruce Rd.) ph. MLH, †KRE, †PHS, m.ob., 1/26 Itasca †SC, 1/30–2/29 Crow Wing ph. †JSB. See Undocumented Reports for additional observations. As always, documentation is requested by the editor and compilers for all reports of this species.

Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) — [24 North, 28 South] Reports were up significantly over the past five years, and siskins were seen across the state except for the Southwest. However, overall numbers were fairly low as the CBC total was 828 compared to the 2005–2006 Winter Season when the CBC total was 6,999! CBC

high count was Duluth (113).

American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) — [23 North, 38 South] Highest number of reports over the past five years. CBC high count was St. Paul NE Suburban (642).

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) — [10 North, 1 South] Reported within range north, with the same number of counties as last year. Numerous reports 12/12–2/24 St. Louis (Sax-Zim) m.ob. Unusual was the only south report 2/24 Olmsted JWH, the first from the region since 2002. CBC high count Itasca S.P. (111).

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) — [25 North, 39 South] Reported from all regions statewide throughout the period. CBC high count Henderson (1,981).

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BRL	Bill Litkey	DTM	Debora Tessman-McKenna	JWL	Jim Lind
BSe	Blaine Seeliger	DTT	Dan Thimgan	JWo	Jill Wood
BTS	Brian T. Smith	DWK	Doug Kieser	JWR	Jim Rataczak
CAB	Cheryl Boyes	DWR	Dean W. Riemer	KAK	Karla Kinstler
CAM	Craig Menze	EEO	Earl Orf	KCR	Kim and Cindy Risen
CCB	Chris Benson	ERo	Earl Rosenwinkel	KJB	Karl J. Bardon
CEd	Chris Edwardson	ESt	Elizabeth Stanley	KLa	Kelly Larson
CFa	Chris Faygal	FGo	Frank Gosiak	KRE	Kim R. Eckert
CGo	Caleb Gosiak	FKB	Frank Berdan	KRS	Karen R. Sussman
ChH	Chad Heins	FVS	Forest V. Strnad	LBo	Linda Born
CJT	Carol and Jim Tveekrem	FZL	Fred Z. Leshner	LEC	Laura Coble
CKB	Christopher Brown	GDB	Gene D. Bauer	LEF	Linda Erlandson Frost
CKK	Courtney Kerns	GSe	Greg Seegert	LMS	Larry Sirvio
CMB	Conny Brunell	HHD	Herb Dingmann	LS	Linda Sparling
CMN	Connie Norheim	JAM	John and Ann Mathisen	LW	Larry Wilebski
CMy	Chuck Meyer	JBB	Jason B. Bolish	MAO	Mark Ochs
CRM	Craig Mandel	JBi	Jeff Bircherm	MaS	Matt Schaut

MCA Mark Alt
 MDN Mark Nieters
 MHe Melissa Hein
 MJB Milt Blomberg
 MLH Michael L. Hendrickson
 MO Mark Otnes
 MRo Mark Roberts
 NBO Nancy Overcott
 NFT Nels F. Thompson
 NGE Nathaniel G. Emery
 NSc Nathan Schirmacher
 OWB O. William Bruins
 PBB Patrick Beauzay
 PDe Phil Dech
 PEB Paul Budde
 PEJ Paul E. Jantscher
 PHi Penny Hillemann
 PHS Peder H. Svingen
 PJB Paul Binek
 PJK Pat Korkowski
 PLJ Paul L. Johnson
 PRH Pete Hoeger
 PSw Phil Swanson

PTh Peder Thomson
 PWS Paul W. Smithson
 RBJ Robert B. Janssen
 RBW Bob Williams
 RGj Rick Gjervold
 RHO Bob O'Connor
 RLa Robin LaFortune
 RLR Ronald Refsnider
 RLW Richard Wood
 RMD Bob Dunlap
 RNe Randal Newton
 RoB Robin Berry
 RPR Bob Russell
 RSF Randy Frederickson
 SaL Sarah Larson
 SAS Shelley Steva
 SC Shawn Conrad
 SES Steven Schon
 SLF Steve L. Falkowski
 SLL Sally and Lyle Lauber
 SMC Scott M. Clark
 SMi Sandi Miller
 SMo Steve Morrison

SMT Sandy M. Thimgan
 STW Sylvia Winkelman
 SWe Steve Weston
 SZi Shawn Zierman
 TEB Tom Bell
 TFB Tom Boevers
 TKI Tom Klein
 TNe Theresa Nelson
 TPW Terry P. Wiens
 WBa Wes Bailey
 WBr Wayne Bringer
 WCM William Marengo

Abbreviations

C.R. County Road
 m.ob. many observers
 N.F. National Forest
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge
 S.P. State Park
 W.L.S.S.D. Western Lake Superior Sanitary District
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area

The 2007–2008 Christmas Bird Count Summary

Carl Greiner

The 2007–2008 Christmas Bird Count in Minnesota tallied 299,847 birds of 129 distinct species. The count was down from last year's total of 420,057 individuals of 137 species and ranked 7th all-time out of 102 total counts. Sixty-nine species were also noted during the count week. Of the birds recorded on count week only the Mountain Bluebird in the Grand Marais circle and the Mute Swan in the Northern Wright County circle would have affected the overall species total had they been seen on count day. All of the other count week birds were observed somewhere in the state on count day.

New records were set for numbers of participants (1,132) and number of count circles (70). New count circles were performed in Red Wing (Laura Coble),

Bluestem Prairie/Buffalo River State Park (Matthew Mecklenburg), Northern Meeker County (Milton Blomberg), Walker (Ben Wieland), and Jackson County (Don Vr-chota). While Hackensack, Murray County, Ely, International Falls, and the White-water River where not performed this year to the best of my knowledge. The high species count was shared between Bloomington and Excelsior this year at 62. New high counts at one location were set for American Three-toed Woodpeckers (5 in Rice Lake NWR — previous record 3 Beltrami Island), Townsend's Solitaire (4 in Excelsior — previous record 3 Grand Marais 1982), Eurasian-collared Dove (19 in Morris — previous record 12 Austin 2006), Turkey Vulture (3 in Winona, previous record 1 in Winona 2006 and Grand

Location	Date	Compiler	Species	CW	Total Birds
Afton	1 Jan 2008	Joseph Merchak	39	3	3407
Albert Lea	29 Dec 2007	Allen Batt	47	0	3834
Aurora	29 Dec 2007	Cathy Leece	25	1	1530
Austin	16 Dec 2007	Terry Dorsey	50	2	4662
Battle Lake	30 Dec 2007	Steve Millard	40	0	2930
Baudette	31 Dec 2007	Martin Kehoe	26	0	1223
Beltrami Island	30 Dec 2007	Martin Kehoe	19	2	208
Bemidji	22 Dec 2007	Katherine Haws	28	0	939
Bloomington	15 Dec 2007	Mark Ochs	62	2	15948
Bluestem Prairie/Buffalo River SP	16 Dec 2007	Matthew Mecklenburg	25	1	2025
Carlton-Cloquet	16 Dec 2007	Larry Weber	33	0	1497
Cedar Creek Bog	16 Dec 2007	James Howitz	39	0	2144
Cook Area	28 Dec 2007	Gerald & Charlotte Jacobsen	21	2	1762
Cottonwood	16 Dec 2007	Paul Egeland	37	0	2301
Crookston	15 Dec 2007	Tom Feiro	34	0	1917
Crosby	15 Dec 2007	Josephine Blanich	32	0	3602
Detroit Lakes	15 Dec 2007	Jim Holter	28	0	1596
Duluth	15 Dec 2007	Jim Lind	55	3	10125
Excelsior	15 Dec 2007	Howard Towle	62	0	8254
Fairmont	15 Dec 2007	Brad Bolduan	41	0	5593
Fargo-Moorhead	15 Dec 2007	Robert O'Conner	36		3692
Faribault	15 Dec 2007	Gene Bauer/Dave Bartkey	49	0	7809
Fergus Falls	15 Dec 2007	Steve Millard	54	1	5723
Fredenberg	16 Dec 2007	Celeste Kawulok	19	1	553
Grand Forks-East Grand Forks	16 Dec 2007	Dave Lambeth	17	5	387
Grand Marais	15 Dec 2007	Jeremy Ridlbauer	44	5	1614
Grand Rapids	16 Dec 2007	Kenneth Zimmer	38	3	1436
Hastings-Etter	29 Dec 2007	Roger Field	55	0	7193
Henderson	15 Dec 2007	Arthur/Barbara Straub	46	1	4242
Hibbing	1 Jan 2008	Christine Olson	23	0	707
Hutchinson	15 Dec 2007	Robert Schroeder	48	1	10233
Isabella	30 Dec 2007	Steve Wilson	20	0	632
Itasca State Park	16 Dec 2007	Douglas P. Johnson	26	1	989
Jackson County	15 Dec 2007	Don Vrchota	32	1	986
Lac qui Parle	22 Dec 2007	Paul Egeland	40	0	32805
LaCrosse-LaCrescent	15 Dec 2007	Daniel E. Jackson	29	2	1325
Lamberton	28 Dec 2007	Lee French	33	4	2000
Little Falls	16 Dec 2007	Murdoch Johnson	39	0	2034
Long Prairie	1 Jan 2008	John & Sue Kroll	41	4	2428
Mankato	16 Dec 2007	Merrill Frydendall	40	0	4007
Marshall	15 Dec 2007	Roger Schroeder	40	0	1485
Minneapolis (North)	15 Dec 2007	Siah St. Clair	35	1	5439
Morris	15 Dec 2007	Donna Oglesby	28	1	1452
Mountain Lake-Windom	1 Jan 2008	Edna Gerber	31	1	2864
New Ulm	15 Dec 2007	Brian Smith/Elaine Poulson	33	3	1601
Northern Meeker County	26 Dec 2007	Milton Blomberg	36	0	3400
Northern Wright County	5 Jan 2008	Claudia Egelhoff	37	3	5503
Owatonna	15 Dec 2007	Darryl Hill	44	0	6329
Philbrook	1 Jan 2008	Ben Fritchman	34	0	1289
Pillager	1 Jan 2008	Michael R. North	31	1	1708
Pine County	27 Dec 2007	Mark Alt	34	0	1843
Red Wing	22 Dec 2007	Laura Coble	46	0	6693
Redwood Falls	22 Dec 2007	Patrick Beauzay	32	0	690
Rice Lake NWR	29 Dec 2007	Michelle McDowell	27	1	1693
Rochester	15 Dec 2007	Clifford Hansen	58	2	27449
Roseau	29 Dec 2007	Betty M. Johnson	28	0	1343
Sax-Zim	17 Dec 2007	Mark Stensaas	28	0	670
Sherburne NWR	15 Dec 2007	James R. Pasch	32	0	1985
St. Cloud-Collegeville	15 Dec 2007	Brian Jungles	38	1	4223
St. Paul (North)	15 Dec 2007	Julian Sellers	55	2	19596
St. Paul (Northeast Suburban)	29 Dec 2007	Richard Wachtler	54	2	8048
Tamarac NWR	17 Dec 2007	Lowell Deede	29	0	712
Two Harbors	16 Dec 2007	Jim Lind	37	2	2622
Virginia	15 Dec 2007	Deborah Buria-Falkowski	31	1	1710
Wabasha	30 Dec 2007	Jonathon Peterson	57	0	5505
Walker	5 Jan 2008	Ben Wieland	29	2	984
Warren	29 Dec 2007	Pamela Wockenfuss	32	0	1825
Wild River	15 Dec 2007	Tom Anderson	47	0	4527
Willmar	15 Dec 2007	Randy Fredericksen	45	1	3971
Winona	15 Dec 2007	Walt Carroll	60	0	6396

Table 1. Minnesota CBC compilers and totals, 2007–08. CW = Count Week.

Marais in 1992).

Weather and Effort

Over the past few years, the relatively mild weather conditions have led to record numbers of birds counted and an influx of new species being added to the Minnesota Christmas Bird Count (CBC) list. This year in contrast, may be thought of as a return to normalcy, at least as far as the weather was concerned. Every count circle submitting weather data recorded snow varying in depth from 3 to 26 inches with an average of 6.5 to 10.1 inches. Temperatures ranged from -16° F to 33° F and open water was difficult to find. Effort continues to be extraordinary, setting new records for participants and number of count circles. I would like to thank the 1,132 participants and compilers, who covered 24,423 miles in 3,073 party-hours. The Excelsior count circle had the most participants (72).

Waterfowl

Perhaps due to the relative absence of open water, most ducks and geese were below the 20-year average with the exception of Mallard, Redhead, Common Goldeneye, and Common Merganser. Other birds that are closely associated with water such as gulls, snipe, coot, herons, loons, and kingfishers were also down. In fact, the difference between this year's and last year's total count may be explained with the changes in the number of just one species — the Canada Goose. In the 2006–07 season, the Canada Goose was counted in record numbers (202,572 individuals from 43 locations). This year only 60,500 were counted from 32 locations. A difference of 142,072 geese which more than makes up for the 120,210 difference between last years total count and this years. Lac Qui Parle's 2006–07 count alone (76,938) was higher than the entire state this year.

Woodpeckers

In recent years, woodpeckers have been increasing across the board on the count. Each and every one of the nine regular species was higher on this count

than the 20-year average and only the Northern Flicker did not exceed last year's numbers. A record 16 American Three-toed Woodpeckers was ten times the 20 year average. A species of great concern in the state, the Red-headed Woodpecker, was over five times last year's count and one and a half times the 20 year average.

Widespread and Numerous Species

Three species were recorded on all 70 counts: Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, and Black-capped Chickadee. Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, and American Crow were recorded on all but one of the counts. Other birds with an extensive distribution included Blue Jay (68 counts), Rock Pigeon (68 counts), European Starling (66 counts), House Sparrow (65 counts), American Goldfinch (64 counts), Bald Eagle (62 counts), Pileated Woodpecker (62 counts), and Dark-eyed Junco (60 counts).

The most numerous species were Canada Goose (60,500), Mallard (30,637), Black-capped Chickadee (22,752), House Sparrow (22,714), European Starling (22,410), Rock Pigeon (18,598), Dark-eyed Junco (15,158), and American Crow (14,476).

Uncommon Species

Birds that have average counts of fewer than 5 per CBC over the last 20 counts include: Mountain Bluebird (count week only), Mute Swan (count week only), Brewer's Blackbird (2 birds observed), White-crowned Sparrow (3), Swamp Sparrow (1), Fox Sparrow (9), Chipping Sparrow (2), Brown Thrasher (1 + 1 count week), Varied Thrush (2), Townsend's Solitaire (13 + 1), Carolina Wren (1 + 1), American Three-toed Woodpecker (16), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (6), Northern Saw-whet Owl (2), Short-eared Owl (2), Long-eared Owl (5), Eurasian Collared-Dove (35), Glaucous Gull (3 + 1 count week), Thayer's Gull (6), Peregrine Falcon (6 + 1 Count Week), Golden Eagle (1), Turkey Vulture (4), Pied-billed Grebe (8), Ruddy Duck (1), Barrow's Goldeneye (1), Harlequin Duck (1), Redhead (13), Green-winged Teal (1), and Northern Pintail (6).

Increasing

Birds that were counted in numbers at least 1.5 times their 20-year average and that are increased from last year included: American Goldfinch, Red Crossbill, Pine Grosbeak, Northern Cardinal, Snow Bunting, Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, American Robin, Townsend's Solitaire, Eastern Bluebird, Tufted Titmouse, Black-capped Chickadee, Horned Lark, Common Raven, Northern Shrike, Pileated Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Long-eared Owl, Barred Owl, Mourning Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Merlin, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Pied-billed Grebe, Wild Turkey, Spruce Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Common Merganser, Barrow's Goldeneye, Common Goldeneye, Redhead, and Trumpeter Swan.

Birds below their 20-year averages but increased from last year included: Evening Grosbeak ((34% of the 20-year average, 118% of last year's total), Common Redpoll (50%, +114%), Hoary Redpoll (34%, +150%), Purple Finch (52%, +169%), Brown Thrasher (53%, none last year), Northern Hawk Owl (28%, none last year), Double-crested Cormorant (68%, +133%), Greater Prairie-Chicken (72%, +422%), Gray Partridge (65%, +600%), Long-tailed Duck (6%, +113%), Ring-necked Duck (45%, +110%), Canvasback (47.8%, +111%), Northern Pintail (66%, +120%), Northern Shoveler (25%, none last year), Tundra Swan (1%, none last year), and Snow Goose (66%, +625%).

Decreasing

Birds that are at least 10% below their 20-year averages and also decreased by at least 10% from last year included: Pine Siskin (36% of average, 42% of last year), White-winged Crossbill (44%, 79%), Brown-headed Cowbird (15%, 30%), Rusty Blackbird (37%, 23%), White-throated

Sparrow (63%, 36%), Golden-crowned Kinglet (23%, 30%), Carolina Wren (72%, 25%), Brown Creeper (79%, 53%), Boreal Chickadee (59%, 50%), Black-billed Magpie (27%, 20%), Gray Jay (86%, 50%), Northern Saw-whet Owl (69%, 22%), Eastern Screech-Owl (71%, 57%), Glaucous Gull (69%, 60%), Herring Gull (87%, 57%), Ring-billed Gull (2%, 5%), Wilson's Snipe (55%, 75%), American Coot (49%, 51%), American Kestrel (65%, 37%), Golden Eagle (29%, 50%), Northern Harrier (76%, 31%), Red-breasted Merganser (41%, 19%), Bufflehead (37%, 62%), Greater Scaup (59%, 50%), Green-winged Teal (17%, 25%), American Black Duck (49%, 56%), American Wigeon (23%, 50%), Gadwall (57%, 72%), Wood Duck (54%, 47%), and Canada Goose (57%, 30%).

Conclusion

The 2007–2008 Christmas Bird Count was another successful census of winter birds in the state. The record numbers of participants and count circles is particularly commendable and all the volunteers, the compilers, and those who help the compilers organize these counts deserve recognition. Although the total bird count did not follow the level of participation into record numbers, I believe it was a respectable number considering the relative absence of open water and the abundant snow cover. It is encouraging to see that several birds that have been in decline are increased from last year's count (e.g. Evening Grosbeaks, the redpolls, and Purple Finches). It is discouraging to see the long list of birds decreased in comparison to both last year and their 20-year average. Although some, like the Pine Siskin, appear to be in the nadir of their population cycles, others like the Golden-crowned Kinglet appear to just be in long-term decline. Hopefully, the 2008–2009 season will see a recovery of declining species, persistence of increasing species, good weather, and continuation of increasing participation.

1616 Hill Street Southwest, Chatfield, MN 55923.

	Afton	Aurora	Battle Lake	Beltrami Island	Bloomington	Carlton*	Cedar Creek Bog
	Albert Lea		Austin	Baudette	Bemidji	Bluestem*	
Snow Goose							
Cackling Goose						17	
Canada Goose	1117	81	132	54	4	457	
Trumpeter Swan	14		297			12	
Tundra Swan							
Mute Swan							
swan sp.							
Wood Duck			1				
Gadwall			1				
American Wigeon			1				
American Black Duck		2	1			3	
Mallard	34	549	343	8	10	4467	
Northern Shoveler							
Northern Pintail							
Green-winged Teal							
Canvasback							
Redhead							
Ring-necked Duck	cw						
Greater Scaup							
Lesser Scaup							
scaup sp.	1						
Harlequin Duck							
Long-tailed Duck							
Bufflehead							
Common Goldeneye	81		3	30		56	14
Barrow's Goldeneye							
Hooded Merganser		1		2		7	
Common Merganser	250					1295	2
Red-breasted Merganser	cw					2	
Ruddy Duck							
Gray Partridge			25				
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	97	65	12		7	169
Ruffed Grouse			7	12	2		19
Spruce Grouse					10		
Sharp-tailed Grouse			4				
Greater Prairie-Chicken							
Wild Turkey	151	37	82	303		130	27
Pied-billed Grebe							78
Double-crested Cormorant					2	2	
Great Blue Heron			2			3	
Turkey Vulture							
Bald Eagle	9	1	10	7	2	24	5
Northern Harrier		1				1	10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2	cw			2	
Cooper's Hawk		2	1			6	1
Northern Goshawk						1	
Accipiter sp.			1				
Red-shouldered Hawk						1	
Red-tailed Hawk	7	13		21	2	93	1
Rough-legged Hawk		1		7			25
Buteo sp.							4
Golden Eagle							
hawk sp.							
American Kestrel		1		2		3	
Merlin				1		1	
Peregrine Falcon						1	
American Coot				1			
Wilson's Snipe					2		
Ring-billed Gull						15	
Herring Gull	cw					964	
Thayer's Gull						4	
Glaucous Gull						3	
Rock Pigeon	40	215	4	142	323	66	69
Eurasian Collared-Dove				3	4		573
Mourning Dove	11	19	25	83	3	1	25
Eastern Screech-Owl		1		3			96
Snowy Owl							28
Northern Hawk Owl							45
Barred Owl		2		10	3		
Great Horned Owl	2	3		10	1		
Great Gray Owl							
Long-eared Owl							
Short-eared Owl							
Northern Saw-whet Owl							
owl sp.	1						

Table 2A. CBC results for Afton, Albert Lea, Aurora, Austin, Battle Lake, Baudette, Beltrami Island, Bemidji, Bloomington, Bluestem, Carlton, and Cedar Creek Bog. *Count Locations not submitting data to the National Audubon Society.

	Afton	Aurora	Battle Lake	Beltrami Island	Bloomington	Carlton*						
	Albert Lea		Austin	Baudette	Bemidji	Bluestem*				Cedar Creek Bog		
Belted Kingfisher			2			4					1	
Red-headed Woodpecker											29	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	25	17		38	9		66			5	26	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker							1					
Downy Woodpecker	47	55	21	70	57	5	1	9	213	9	19	45
Hairy Woodpecker	13	19	15	18	14	10	3	9	86	8	35	30
American Three-toed Woodpecker							4					
Black-backed Woodpecker							2				1	1
Northern Flicker		2		1					3			5
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker												
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker				1								5
Pileated Woodpecker	2	1	5	1	14	2	2	6	19	1	7	21
woodpecker sp.												
Northern Shrike	3	2	2	2	6	1	1		9	3	8	6
Gray Jay			15			1	8				3	
Blue Jay	87	144	69	145	55	18	1	24	130	7	111	220
Black-billed Magpie						10						
American Crow	131	564	27	445	125	59	5	14	1045	10	70	234
Common Raven			189			119	45	11			46	1
Horned Lark		98		7						5		
Black-capped Chickadee	269	175	515	263	418	231	11	162	909	49	220	405
Boreal Chickadee			1									
Tufted Titmouse												
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18	7	54	12	19	4	9	26	35	2	110	12
White-breasted Nuthatch	40	50	21	83	117	17		15	231	7	18	65
Brown Creeper	1			3			cw	1	3			
Carolina Wren												
Golden-crowned Kinglet												
Eastern Bluebird	5								2			
Mountain Bluebird												
Townsend's Solitaire							1					
American Robin	190	3		1	3				283			31
Varied Thrush												
Brown Thrasher									1			
European Starling	237	295	221	693	235	29		98	1000	57	282	83
Bohemian Waxwing						46		80			24	
Cedar Waxwing	1	13			36				290			75
waxwing sp.								30				
American Tree Sparrow	100	39		101	5			1	431			49
Chipping Sparrow				1								
Fox Sparrow	1								4			
Song Sparrow		2		cw					3			
Swamp Sparrow												
White-throated Sparrow		1		1					8			
Harris's Sparrow										1		
White-crowned Sparrow												
Dark-eyed Junco	228	197	3	632	24			4	674	16	2	187
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco												
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	228		3		24			4	674			
Lapland Longspur	3	7										
Snow Bunting	43	135		100	256	246				1525	51	
Northern Cardinal	68	68		136	5			1	193		4	48
Red-winged Blackbird		9		20	10							
meadowlark sp.												
blackbird sp.												
Brewer's Blackbird												
Rusty Blackbird												
Common Grackle		74	cw			1			1			1
Brown-headed Cowbird												
Pine Grosbeak			186		15	90	2	3			120	1
Purple Finch	1	4		3	1							2
House Finch	18	106		80					199	4	2	22
Carpodacus sp.												
Red Crossbill			43									
White-winged Crossbill						30	cw					
crossbill sp.												
Hoary Redpoll												
Common Redpoll			54	1	9	15	40	296	cw	3		93
Pine Siskin	4	4		14	4	3	51	2	7	3	1	
American Goldfinch	101	162	33	86	172			40	381	18	82	157
Evening Grosbeak						42					15	
finch sp.	30											
House Sparrow	49	553	8	761	269	164		46	1457	74	62	44
Total Birds	3667	3834	1534	4663	2954	1223	208	973	16622	2025	1497	2149
Total Species	43	47	27	51	41	26	19	30	63	25	33	40
Total Full Species	39	47	25	50	40	26	19	28	62	25	33	39
Total Birds of Full Species	3407	3834	1530	4662	2930	1223	208	939	15948	2025	1497	2144

Table 2A continued.

	Cook*	Crookston	Detroit Lakes*		Excelsior	Fargo*	Fergus Falls					
	Cottonwood		Crosby	Duluth	Fairmont*	Faribault	Fredenberg					
Snow Goose												
Cackling Goose												
Canada Goose				86		410	962	1275	403	1025	1	
Trumpeter Swan						3				90		
Tundra Swan												
Mute Swan												
swan sp.												
Wood Duck						1				1		
Gadwall					1	24						
American Wigeon												
American Black Duck					16	5	1					
Mallard				30	1005	2714	1112	977	1108	1116	2	
Northern Shoveler						3						
Northern Pintail						1		4				
Green-winged Teal						1						
Canvasback						5						
Redhead						3				1		
Ring-necked Duck						31						
Greater Scaup						1						
Lesser Scaup						5	1	2		3		
scaup sp.												
Harlequin Duck												
Long-tailed Duck												
Bufflehead								1		3		
Common Goldeneye					658	127		4		330	12	
Barrow's Goldeneye												
Hooded Merganser					2	4			2	2		
Common Merganser					7	1				5		
Red-breasted Merganser					1							
Ruddy Duck												
Gray Partridge										cw		
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	171				16	296	1	167	72		
Ruffed Grouse	2		4		20					1	16	
Spruce Grouse												
Sharp-tailed Grouse			4									
Greater Prairie-Chicken			15									
Wild Turkey		5		58		122	3	46	251	1		
Pied-billed Grebe						2				22		
Double-crested Cormorant										1		
Great Blue Heron									1			
Turkey Vulture												
Bald Eagle	6	3	2	6	2	13	1	7	4	15	10	cw
Northern Harrier												
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		1	1	2	6	1		5	5		
Cooper's Hawk			1		1	4			2			
Northern Goshawk					2							
Accipiter sp.												
Red-shouldered Hawk						1			1			
Red-tailed Hawk	6		2		3	47	14		56	1		
Rough-legged Hawk	2				2	3	2		6	2		
Buteo sp.						2						
Golden Eagle												
hawk sp.								2				
American Kestrel	3							1	3			
Merlin	1			1	4							
Peregrine Falcon					1							
American Coot							23			15		
Wilson's Snipe												
Ring-billed Gull												
Herring Gull					126							
Thayer's Gull					1							
Glaucous Gull					cw							
Rock Pigeon	60	190	159	105	154	1717	363	175	95	504	534	10
Eurasian Collared-Dove		8										
Mourning Dove			2	2		35	84	17		111	5	1
Eastern Screech-Owl							1			1		
Snowy Owl												
Northern Hawk Owl						1						
Barred Owl				1		cw	6			1	3	
Great Horned Owl	4		1			3	8	5	3	1	2	
Great Gray Owl												
Long-eared Owl		1										
Short-eared Owl										1		
Northern Saw-whet Owl										1		
owl sp.												

Table 2B. CBC results for Cook, Cottonwood, Crookston, Crosby, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Excelsior, Fairmont, Fargo, Faribault, Fergus Falls, and Fredenberg.

	Cook*	Crookston		Detroit Lakes*		Excelsior	Fargo*		Fergus Falls			
	Cottonwood			Crosby		Duluth	Fairmont*		Faribault	Fredenberg		
Belted Kingfisher							1		2	3		
Red-headed Woodpecker					6							
Red-bellied Woodpecker		8	2	24			43	17	5	37	14	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker												
Downy Woodpecker	15	33	10	59	31	139	138	32	24	131	45	13
Hairy Woodpecker	32	26	13	40	13	93	63	17	20	47	32	12
American Three-toed Woodpecker						2						
Black-backed Woodpecker						3						
Northern Flicker		1	1				4			11	1	
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker												
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker										11	1	
Pileated Woodpecker	6	1	3	32	13	34	19		5	5	12	
woodpecker sp.												
Northern Shrike	1	2	3	4		12	12	1	2	7	3	1
Gray Jay	35					2						2
Blue Jay	85	36	19	191	54	63	115	27	16	178	35	13
Black-billed Magpie			2									
American Crow	2	28	57	68	62	528	342	139	154	469	56	128
Common Raven	135		2	10		120						59
Horned Lark		142		1				254		36	5	
Black-capped Chickadee	590	75	89	1318	185	2527	830	74	137	333	362	145
Boreal Chickadee						5						
Tufted Titmouse												
Red-breasted Nuthatch	89	2	4	112	2	202	14	7	9	27	13	29
White-breasted Nuthatch	83	34	13	180	70	91	198	27	36	119	90	9
Brown Creeper	cw	6		1		1	5	1		8	3	
Carolina Wren												
Golden-crowned Kinglet				2		2						
Eastern Bluebird						cw	1					
Mountain Bluebird												
Townsend's Solitaire						1	4		1			
American Robin		1	3	4		31	166	1	7	19	23	
Varied Thrush						1						
Brown Thrasher												
European Starling	2	544	190	138	156	631	725	1218	64	1287	200	
Bohemian Waxwing				193	47	987					1	
Cedar Waxwing		36	22		1		33	135	15	46	40	
waxwing sp.												
American Tree Sparrow		8		1			181	11		324	8	
Chipping Sparrow												
Fox Sparrow							1					
Song Sparrow					1			2		2		
Swamp Sparrow							1					
White-throated Sparrow						6	1	2		1	1	
Harris's Sparrow									1			
White-crowned Sparrow												
Dark-eyed Junco		138	27	44	27	100	393	260	82	585	145	
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco		1							5			
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco		137				100				585	145	
Lapland Longspur			63				6	27	3		10	
Snow Bunting		157	520	134	14	75	200	170	195	543		
Northern Cardinal	cw	6	3	37	4	45	187	30	3	263	18	
Red-winged Blackbird		5			1						40	
meadowlark sp.								1				
blackbird sp.												
Brewer's Blackbird												
Rusty Blackbird												
Common Grackle		2	2					6				
Brown-headed Cowbird								2				
Pine Grosbeak	217		2	131		79						76
Purple Finch	43		11					25	3	1	2	
House Finch		2	10		2	104	89	34	12	177	18	
Carpodacus sp.						4						
Red Crossbill						2						
White-winged Crossbill						5						
crossbill sp.												
Hoary Redpoll			77							6		
Common Redpoll			6	4		167		2		59	31	
Pine Siskin		19	32	117	33	117	168	49	47	164	124	16
American Goldfinch	267					1						8
Evening Grosbeak	76					42						
finch sp.						2						
House Sparrow	15	594	548	636	541	290	395	397	389	630	595	
Total Birds	1762	2439	1917	3602	1596	10271	8256	5596	3697	8405	5869	553
Total Species	21	39	34	32	28	58	63	43	37	51	56	19
Total Full Species	21	37	34	32	28	55	62	41	36	49	54	19
Total Birds of Full Species	1762	2301	1917	3602	1596	10125	8254	5593	3692	7809	5723	553

Table 2B continued.

	Grand Forks*		Grand Rapids		Henderson*		Hutchinson		Itasca S.P.		Lac Qui Parle	
	Grand Marais	Hastings-Etter	Hibbing*	Isabella	Jackson*	Lacrosse*						
Snow Goose							25					
Cackling Goose							16					
Canada Goose	1	16	553	553			1815			30000		
Trumpeter Swan		5	8									cw
Tundra Swan												
Mute Swan												
swan sp.											1	
Wood Duck			1								1	
Gadwall												
American Wigeon	cw											
American Black Duck	2	4	1				1				1	cw
Mallard	16	4	652	1			984				500	24
Northern Shoveler												
Northern Pintail												
Green-winged Teal												
Canvasback			2									
Redhead			8									
Ring-necked Duck												
Greater Scaup												
Lesser Scaup			2									
scaup sp.												
Harlequin Duck			1									
Long-tailed Duck		9										
Bufflehead	cw	1	1									
Common Goldeneye	cw	36	31	691							34	
Barrow's Goldeneye				1								
Hooded Merganser		1										
Common Merganser		2	1	367								
Red-breasted Merganser												
Ruddy Duck												
Gray Partridge	2									2		
Ring-necked Pheasant			26	111			525			70	61	6
Ruffed Grouse	2	1	1		2			4	1			
Spruce Grouse								3				
Sharp-tailed Grouse												
Greater Prairie-Chicken												
Wild Turkey			110				79					120
Pied-billed Grebe			2									
Double-crested Cormorant												
Great Blue Heron				1								
Turkey Vulture	1											
Bald Eagle	12	16	25	8	2	3			10	2	9	4
Northern Harrier						1				2		
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	1	5	1	3			1	1	3	
Cooper's Hawk				2		2						
Northern Goshawk	cw							1				
Accipiter sp.											1	
Red-shouldered Hawk			2									
Red-tailed Hawk	cw		50	7		41				1	6	16
Rough-legged Hawk		cw	5	5		2					2	3
Buteo sp.												
Golden Eagle												
hawk sp.												
American Kestrel	cw		7	2		3				9	2	2
Merlin										1		
Peregrine Falcon												
American Coot			2									
Wilson's Snipe												
Ring-billed Gull												
Herring Gull		88										
Thayer's Gull												
Glaucous Gull												
Rock Pigeon	29	32	141	291	237	87	495		11	108	65	199
Eurasian Collared-Dove											1	
Mourning Dove			6	104	45		42			8		18
Eastern Screech-Owl												
Snowy Owl				1								
Northern Hawk Owl												
Barred Owl	cw	cw	2	1			2					
Great Horned Owl	1		3	3			8			1	1	
Great Gray Owl		cw										
Long-eared Owl	1											
Short-eared Owl												
Northern Saw-whet Owl												
owl sp.												

Table 2C. CBC results for Grand Forks, Grand Marais, Grand Rapids, Hastings-Etter, Henderson, Hibbing, Hutchinson, Isabella, Itasca S.P., Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, and Lacrosse.

	Grand Forks*		Grand Rapids		Henderson*		Hutchinson		Itasca S.P.		Lac Qui Parle	
	Grand Marais		Hastings-Etter		Hibbing*		Isabella		Jackson*		Lacrosse*	
Belted Kingfisher							1				1	
Red-headed Woodpecker												
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1		2	52	64	1	38			6	4	12
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				2								
Downy Woodpecker	16	62	12	84	106	4	142	43	15	21	2	13
Hairy Woodpecker	2	24	12	48	79	5	53	17	17	11	8	5
American Three-toed Woodpecker			1									
Black-backed Woodpecker								2	3			
Northern Flicker				1	6		2			1	1	4
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker												
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker							2				1	
Pileated Woodpecker		5	17	12	7	1	12	5	8	cw		4
woodpecker sp.												
Northern Shrike	1	4	3	8	4	2	6	3	2		1	
Gray Jay		9	2			5		41	5			
Blue Jay		62	40	173	224	15	168	22	72	31	32	
Black-billed Magpie									cw			
American Crow	21	49	89	263	58	13	223		26	25	38	103
Common Raven		367	37			40		77	34			
Horned Lark			3	1	7		18			42	287	
Black-capped Chickadee	37	252	347	269	357	108	426	224	191	48	35	103
Boreal Chickadee			1					3				
Tufted Titmouse				1								3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	119	39	9	17	7	31	62	42	7	2	
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	5	54	66	162	2	157	4	28	19	6	25
Brown Creeper		1			3		21		1	1	2	2
Carolina Wren												
Golden-crowned Kinglet												
Eastern Bluebird					cw							3
Mountain Bluebird		cw										
Townsend's Solitaire		2										
American Robin		3		419	4		23					23
Varied Thrush					1							
Brown Thrasher		cw										
European Starling		54	168	791	184	198	500		1	123	370	91
Bohemian Waxwing	44	200	6									
Cedar Waxwing	10			158	24		5				12	
waxwing sp.												
American Tree Sparrow				114	241		197				7	52
Chipping Sparrow												
Fox Sparrow					2					1		
Song Sparrow												
Swamp Sparrow												
White-throated Sparrow		1		1						1		
Harris's Sparrow				1	2		1					
White-crowned Sparrow		1					2					
Dark-eyed Junco	45	4	2	454	602		1100		13	107	185	272
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco											1	
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco		4							13		184	
Lapland Longspur				31			3				1	
Snow Bunting			5	100	40		545			35	355	
Northern Cardinal		9	7	102	224		184		2	5	16	85
Red-winged Blackbird	cw				2		3			2	500	
meadowlark sp.										2		
blackbird sp.										15		
Brewer's Blackbird												
Rusty Blackbird					2						1	
Common Grackle					34		10			7		
Brown-headed Cowbird												
Pine Grosbeak		110	91				132	102	44			
Purple Finch				2	90		cw					2
House Finch	18			100	172		150			39	14	2
Carpodacus sp.												
Red Crossbill						12		9	9			
White-winged Crossbill		3	cw					5				
crossbill sp.								1				
Hoary Redpoll						1						
Common Redpoll		10	126			66		3	202			
Pine Siskin	7	2			2		5	2	1		5	
American Goldfinch	2	2	48	68	235		179		139	38	94	72
Evening Grosbeak		23	45				2		111			
finch sp.												
House Sparrow	147	22	37	946	305		1981			220	140	57
Total Birds	387	1618	1436	7193	4242	707	10235	633	1002	1012	32993	1325
Total Species	17	45	38	55	46	23	49	21	27	35	45	29
Total Full Species	17	44	38	55	46	23	48	20	26	32	40	29
Total Birds of Full Species	387	1614	1436	7193	4242	707	10233	632	989	986	32805	1325

Table 2C continued.

	Lamberton*	Long Prairie*		Marshall	Morris	New Ulm*		Northern Wright Co.		
	Little Falls*		Mankato		Mpls (north)	Mtn Lake-Windom		Northern Meeker Co.		Owatonna
Snow Goose										
Cackling Goose										
Canada Goose	27				121	5			420	18
Trumpeter Swan									1556	
Tundra Swan					6					
Mute Swan									cw	
swan sp.										
Wood Duck									1	
Gadwall			3							
American Wigeon										
American Black Duck										1
Mallard	331	8	79	1	2446	40	12	12	325	354
Northern Shoveler									cw	
Northern Pintail									cw	
Green-winged Teal										
Canvasback										
Redhead										
Ring-necked Duck										
Greater Scaup										
Lesser Scaup										
scaup sp.										
Harlequin Duck										
Long-tailed Duck										
Bufflehead					63				52	
Common Goldeneye										
Barrow's Goldeneye										
Hooded Merganser										
Common Merganser									27	
Red-breasted Merganser										
Ruddy Duck										
Gray Partridge	cw			7			19			
Ring-necked Pheasant	207	95	72	13	111	21	262	73	28	319
Ruffed Grouse		2	3							36
Spruce Grouse										215
Sharp-tailed Grouse										
Greater Prairie-Chicken										
Wild Turkey	19	122	44	131	10	32	15	68	142	39
Pied-billed Grebe										124
Double-crested Cormorant										
Great Blue Heron				2						
Turkey Vulture										
Bald Eagle	cw	14	9	10		8		4	8	13
Northern Harrier					1					5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	cw		1	1	1	1		1	3	2
Cooper's Hawk					1		2			1
Northern Goshawk		3	1							
Accipiter sp.										
Red-shouldered Hawk										
Red-tailed Hawk	11	15	15	46	8	18	4	5	10	35
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	1	1	1			1	cw	17
Buteo sp.										1
Golden Eagle										26
hawk sp.										5
American Kestrel	1		cw	1	1		1		3	1
Merlin									1	4
Peregrine Falcon						cw				
American Coot										cw
Wilson's Snipe										
Ring-billed Gull										
Herring Gull										
Thayer's Gull										
Glaucous Gull										
Rock Pigeon	125	259	345	335	47	779	134	42	233	547
Eurasian Collared-Dove							19			230
Mourning Dove	4	3	2	15	7	33	1	2	6	8
Eastern Screech-Owl	1								1	48
Snowy Owl										42
Northern Hawk Owl										
Barred Owl			2	5		1				2
Great Horned Owl	4		1	7	5	2	1	1	4	1
Great Gray Owl										2
Long-eared Owl										
Short-eared Owl										
Northern Saw-whet Owl										
owl sp.										

Table 2D. CBC results for Lamberton, Little Falls, Long Prairie, Mankato, Marshall, Minneapolis (north), Morris, Mountain Lake-Windom, New Ulm, Northern Meeker County, Northern Wright County, and Owatonna.

	Lamberton*		Long Prairie*		Marshall		Morris		New Ulm*		Northern Wright Co.		
	Little Falls*		Mankato		Mpls (north)		Mtn Lake-Windom		Northern Meeker Co.		Owatonna		
Belted Kingfisher													2
Red-headed Woodpecker													3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	3	24	16	12	17	cw	2	10	22	19	41	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker													
Downy Woodpecker	27	18	55	29	37	71	8	8	43	51	35	95	
Hairy Woodpecker	30	9	27	18	22	27	7	3	9	12	17	29	
American Three-toed Woodpecker													
Black-backed Woodpecker													
Northern Flicker	1	1	cw	11	3	1			2	1	2	1	
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker				1									
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker				10	1	1					2	1	
Pileated Woodpecker		7	12	3	1	3	2		cw	5	6	6	
woodpecker sp.													
Northern Shrike	5	4	6	2	2	4				2	5	4	
Gray Jay													
Blue Jay	37	52	89	49	43	78	7	13	36	109	81	184	
Black-billed Magpie													
American Crow	50	388	267	871	62	268	23	50	30	248	139	526	
Common Raven													
Horned Lark	421	8		10	52			1527	17	51	10	25	
Black-capped Chickadee	67	111	249	132	108	340	57	9	125	202	266	355	
Boreal Chickadee													
Tufted Titmouse													
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	41	20	7	9	2	1	2	11	4	9	29	
White-breasted Nuthatch	26	28	72	45	43	64	12	10	36	68	64	106	
Brown Creeper	1		1	3	8	2			1		1	1	
Carolina Wren													
Golden-crowned Kinglet													
Eastern Bluebird													
Mountain Bluebird													
Townsend's Solitaire													
American Robin		1	4	48	1	25	3		1	38		12	
Varied Thrush													
Brown Thrasher													
European Starling	53	71	16	515	124	334	89	294	71	499	988	1340	
Bohemian Waxwing		48											
Cedar Waxwing		5	11	149	1	45	41	cw		51		2	
waxwing sp.													
American Tree Sparrow	66	2	73	78	69	23	5	7	6	23	210	182	
Chipping Sparrow													
Fox Sparrow													
Song Sparrow				1					15				
Swamp Sparrow													
White-throated Sparrow													
Harris's Sparrow													
White-crowned Sparrow													
Dark-eyed Junco	300	56	194	317	193	156	117	100	250	194	260	496	
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	3			317	4	156	117	100		1	260	496	
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco										193			
Lapland Longspur	28		4		80			27	1	39			
Snow Bunting	206	151	370	102	1		206	376	175	141		154	
Northern Cardinal	6	10	50	73	20	40	3	2	60	33	45	128	
Red-winged Blackbird	172	1	3	500	130	1	1						
meadowlark sp.			cw										
blackbird sp.													
Brewer's Blackbird			2										
Rusty Blackbird	6												
Common Grackle			1	2	1			1	cw	1			
Brown-headed Cowbird													
Pine Grosbeak			cw									1	
Purple Finch	1	2	3		5				1	6		22	
House Finch	4	1	15	20	5	128		1	22	4	44	169	
Carpodacus sp.													
Red Crossbill		2											
White-winged Crossbill													
crossbill sp.													
Hoary Redpoll													
Common Redpoll		18	64					8				7	
Pine Siskin	cw	8	17						2			35	
American Goldfinch	27	29	189	28	16	38	35	17	35	42	43	122	
Evening Grosbeak													
finch sp.													
House Sparrow	78	87	86	329	236	241	353	248	285	476	489	1193	
Total Birds	2003	2034	2428	4335	1489	5596	1569	2964	1601	3594	5765	6826	
Total Species	34	39	41	43	41	37	29	32	33	38	39	46	
Total Full Species	33	39	41	40	40	35	28	31	33	36	37	44	
Total Birds of Full Species	2000	2034	2428	4007	1485	5439	1452	2864	1601	3400	5503	6329	

Table 2D continued.

	Philbrook*	Pine County		Redwood Falls*	Rochester		Sax-Zim		St. Cloud-Collegeville		
	Pillager		Red Wing		Rice Lake	N.W.R.	Roseau		Sherburne*	St. Paul (north)	
Snow Goose											
Cackling Goose						1					
Canada Goose		6				17000				615	2978
Trumpeter Swan		61							4		13
Tundra Swan		2									
Mute Swan											
swan sp.											
Wood Duck										2	1
Gadwall											1
American Wigeon											1
American Black Duck						2					2
Mallard				963		753			10	1654	5488
Northern Shoveler											1
Northern Pintail										1	
Green-winged Teal											
Canvasback											
Redhead											
Ring-necked Duck											
Greater Scaup											
Lesser Scaup				2							
scaup sp.											
Harlequin Duck											
Long-tailed Duck											
Bufflehead											
Common Goldeneye				440		15				105	35
Barrow's Goldeneye											
Hooded Merganser											5
Common Merganser		16		418		6				27	93
Red-breasted Merganser											
Ruddy Duck											
Gray Partridge				8		15					
Ring-necked Pheasant	11			25	5	1	79		73	18	5
Ruffed Grouse		2	13	4		2		4			
Spruce Grouse								1			
Sharp-tailed Grouse						13		2			
Greater Prairie-Chicken											
Wild Turkey	60	31	13	48	6		271		352	329	46
Pied-billed Grebe											1
Double-crested Cormorant											
Great Blue Heron											19
Turkey Vulture											
Bald Eagle	4	5	12	50	3	2	28	1	14	9	11
Northern Harrier											31
Sharp-shinned Hawk				3		1	4				1
Cooper's Hawk				2			7			1	1
Northern Goshawk	2		1					2	1		8
Accipiter sp.											
Red-shouldered Hawk							1				1
Red-tailed Hawk	8	1		30	7		84		23	14	46
Rough-legged Hawk	2		13	14	3	4	14		1	3	1
Buteo sp.											
Golden Eagle											
hawk sp.		1									
American Kestrel				2	1		2				1
Merlin							1				
Peregrine Falcon							1				3
American Coot											5
Wilson's Snipe							1				
Ring-billed Gull				1							2
Herring Gull				1							1
Thayer's Gull											
Glaucous Gull											
Rock Pigeon	105	101	113	137	118	102	655	133	40	242	106
Eurasian Collared-Dove											3844
Mourning Dove	8		11	69	1		246		5	2	45
Eastern Screech-Owl							4				101
Snowy Owl											
Northern Hawk Owl									1		
Barred Owl		cw		2		2	9			1	2
Great Horned Owl							16			2	6
Great Gray Owl			1								
Long-eared Owl											
Short-eared Owl								cw			
Northern Saw-whet Owl							1				
owl sp.											

Table 2E. CBC results for Philbrook, Pillager, Pine County, Red Wing, Redwood Falls, Rice Lake N.W.R., Rochester, Roseau, Sax-Zim, Sherburne, St. Cloud-Collegeville, and St. Paul (north).

	Philbrook*	Pine County		Redwood Falls*		Rochester		Sax-Zim		St. Cloud-Collegeville	
	Pillager		Red Wing		Rice Lake	N.W.R.	Roseau		Sherburne*		St. Paul (north)
Belted Kingfisher				1							3
Red-headed Woodpecker										2	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	7	2	50	7	1	62			13	14
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker											34
Downy Woodpecker	11	40	14	33	18	17	137	8	3	21	25
Hairy Woodpecker	6	9	19	10	3	23	46	14	4	7	17
American Three-toed Woodpecker							5				146
Black-backed Woodpecker								1	3		
Northern Flicker	1			1				2			5
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker											
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker											
Pileated Woodpecker	3	4	8	14	1	9	6	2	4	16	6
woodpecker sp.											13
Northern Shrike	3	1	5	5	1	14	13	3	3	4	6
Gray Jay				2				2	15		
Blue Jay	28	67	208	79	10	114	262	27	10	173	67
Black-billed Magpie								4			
American Crow	322	72	158	416	58	137	1414	62	31	118	89
Common Raven	1	2	73			14		61	86	3	
Horned Lark	2			3	22		19				
Black-capped Chickadee	149	548	521	240	30	697	487	81	160	169	173
Boreal Chickadee									4		
Tufted Titmouse				2			2				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	26	19	6	2	19	27	1	14	8	8
White-breasted Nuthatch	23	45	23	63	12	28	143	29	3	24	47
Brown Creeper		1	1	3	1		8				1
Carolina Wren							1				5
Golden-crowned Kinglet								2			cw
Eastern Bluebird					6						
Mountain Bluebird											
Townsend's Solitaire	1						1				cw
American Robin				86			76			100	5
Varied Thrush											234
Brown Thrasher											
European Starling	9	9	181	825	1	120	769	303	12	4	226
Bohemian Waxwing		50	8					78		4	
Cedar Waxwing				15	7		868			154	17
waxwing sp.											146
American Tree Sparrow	4			116	15		340			103	86
Chipping Sparrow							1				78
Fox Sparrow											
Song Sparrow							1				
Swamp Sparrow											
White-throated Sparrow							2				
Harris's Sparrow					1						
White-crowned Sparrow											
Dark-eyed Junco	24	3	3	487	173		1251	2		217	146
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco											297
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco		3		487				2			
Lapland Longspur	1						1	2			
Snow Bunting	336	194	1	10		25	137	310	120		
Northern Cardinal	1	2	3	79	9		358			10	37
Red-winged Blackbird				60							176
meadowlark sp.											
blackbird sp.											
Brewer's Blackbird											
Rusty Blackbird											
Common Grackle							1				
Brown-headed Cowbird											
Pine Grosbeak	8	6	204			83		14	70		
Purple Finch				1	5		51				2
House Finch				11	3		253			11	27
Carpodacus sp.											161
Red Crossbill			43						16		
White-winged Crossbill			2					8			
crossbill sp.								2			
Hoary Redpoll	2										
Common Redpoll	42	176	51			43			21		
Pine Siskin	21	6		47	42		31	5	4		6
American Goldfinch	79	133	28	112	31	23	199		11	41	51
Evening Grosbeak			23			27					252
finch sp.											
House Sparrow	3	82	64	418	88	167	1264	185	10	65	233
											1563
Total Birds	1289	1712	1843	5897	690	1693	27449	1347	670	1985	4223
Total Species	34	33	34	47	32	27	58	30	28	32	38
Total Full Species	34	31	34	46	32	27	58	28	28	32	38
Total Birds of Full Species	1289	1708	1843	5410	690	1693	27449	1343	670	1985	4223

Table 2E continued.

	St. Paul (NE)	Two Harbors		Wabasha	Walker	Warren	Wild River	Willmar*	Winona
	Tamarac*		Virginia*						
Snow Goose									
Cackling Goose									
Canada Goose	141				207				14
Trumpeter Swan	28	12			1			3	
Tundra Swan							17		
Mute Swan									
swan sp.									
Wood Duck									
Gadwall	5				21				21
American Wigeon									
American Black Duck	2				2				15
Mallard	784		60	632	18		1	167	834
Northern Shoveler									
Northern Pintail									
Green-winged Teal									
Canvasback									3
Redhead					1				
Ring-necked Duck					1				
Greater Scaup									
Lesser Scaup					1				1
scaup sp.									
Harlequin Duck									
Long-tailed Duck			2						
Bufflehead			26	1	690		9		
Common Goldeneye									
Barrow's Goldeneye									
Hooded Merganser	1		2	1					1
Common Merganser			2	297			6		
Red-breasted Merganser			1						
Ruddy Duck									1
Gray Partridge					9	15			
Ring-necked Pheasant	72				1		187	396	2
Ruffed Grouse	1	3	9	18	1	2	1	6	
Spruce Grouse									
Sharp-tailed Grouse							43		
Greater Prairie-Chicken									
Wild Turkey	556	2			84	3	223	98	214
Pied-billed Grebe		1							
Double-crested Cormorant	1								
Great Blue Heron								1	1
Turkey Vulture									3
Bald Eagle	15	7	10	8	111	8	4	18	3
Northern Harrier								1	72
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3				1			1	3
Cooper's Hawk	5				2			1	
Northern Goshawk	1		1						3
Accipiter sp.								1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	4				1			2	
Red-tailed Hawk	33				34			9	15
Rough-legged Hawk	3		3		6			3	3
Buteo sp.									1
Golden Eagle									1
hawk sp.									1
American Kestrel					3			1	3
Merlin	1								1
Peregrine Falcon									
American Coot				1					5
Wilson's Snipe	1							1	
Ring-billed Gull									
Herring Gull			73						
Thayer's Gull			1						
Glaucous Gull									
Rock Pigeon	307	4	168	114	367	52	289	320	259
Eurasian Collared-Dove									330
Mourning Dove	191		5		126		1	100	18
Eastern Screech-Owl									169
Snowy Owl					1		1		1
Northern Hawk Owl									
Barred Owl	6				1			1	2
Great Horned Owl	6	1	1		1		1	2	3
Great Gray Owl			1		1		2	3	3
Long-eared Owl							3		
Short-eared Owl									1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1								
owl sp.									

Table 2F. CBC results for St. Paul (northeast suburban), Tamarac, Two Harbors, Virginia, Wabasha, Walker, Warren, Wild River, Willmar, and Winona.

	St. Paul (NE)	Two Harbors		Wabasha	Warren	Willmar*	Winona			
	Tamarac*		Virginia*	Walker	Wild River					
Belted Kingfisher	1			3		2	2	4		
Red-headed Woodpecker	2							1		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	67	5	cw	23	3	36	24	50		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker								1		
Downy Woodpecker	223	22	36	10	50	20	11	110	72	108
Hairy Woodpecker	85	9	28	10	17	16	13	40	30	36
American Three-toed Woodpecker			2	2						
Black-backed Woodpecker			2							
Northern Flicker	5			3			1	7	2	
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker										
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	5									
Pileated Woodpecker	47	6	2	5	2	9	3	23	22	13
woodpecker sp.										
Northern Shrike	8		3	5	10	cw		2	4	3
Gray Jay			2	11			3			
Blue Jay	220	54	38	40	112	46	27	158	99	144
Black-billed Magpie										
American Crow	801	13	175	52	308	14	12	334	143	389
Common Raven	1	3	100	85		31	4			
Horned Lark				87			2	11	34	28
Black-capped Chickadee	812	296	968	248	202	246	165	630	347	297
Boreal Chickadee			5	2						
Tufted Titmouse				1				1		22
Red-breasted Nuthatch	48	17	90	33	14	82	13	13	8	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	230	41	26	9	65	37	11	161	78	101
Brown Creeper	4				2	1		1	4	5
Carolina Wren										
Golden-crowned Kinglet			1							
Eastern Bluebird	1			26						16
Mountain Bluebird										
Townsend's Solitaire			2							
American Robin	592			28	2		6	11	56	
Varied Thrush										
Brown Thrasher										
European Starling	707	9	224	154	375	3	80	397	388	238
Bohemian Waxwing			176	530		78				
Cedar Waxwing	195			205	2	7	6	46	3	
waxwing sp.										
American Tree Sparrow	168			241			248	172	436	
Chipping Sparrow										
Fox Sparrow										
Song Sparrow							1			2
Swamp Sparrow										
White-throated Sparrow			1							3
Harris's Sparrow										
White-crowned Sparrow										
Dark-eyed Junco	297	9	7	524	1	104	428	633	1303	
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco				1						
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	297					104	6			1
Lapland Longspur										
Snow Bunting	cw	20		13	15	719	71	88		
Northern Cardinal	196	1	8	1	73	4	120	107	191	
Red-winged Blackbird	2			2				128		3
meadowlark sp.				1						
blackbird sp.										
Brewer's Blackbird										
Rusty Blackbird										6
Common Grackle	17	2						4		1
Brown-headed Cowbird										
Pine Grosbeak		47	46	113	6	14				
Purple Finch	29	14		cw	1		1	60	22	
House Finch	203		11		44	2	157	85	90	
Carpodacus sp.										
Red Crossbill				15		20				
White-winged Crossbill	cw		104		cw					
crossbill sp.										
Hoary Redpoll										
Common Redpoll	48	12	217	98	1	154	122	12		
Pine Siskin	39	7		4	76	9	14	17	2	11
American Goldfinch	642	85	26	56	92	17	229	175	329	
Evening Grosbeak		6		4		4	7			
finch sp.			20							
House Sparrow	190	4	49	47	338	8	110	402	226	691
Total Birds	8350	712	2642	1710	5507	984	1929	4527	3971	6397
Total Species	56	29	38	31	59	29	33	47	45	61
Total Full Species	54	29	37	31	57	29	32	47	45	60
Total Birds of Full Species	8048	712	2622	1710	5505	984	1825	4527	3971	6396

Table 2F continued.

Birding by Hindsight

A Second Look at Loons and Grebes

Kim R. Eckert



First, a word or two about hummingbirds. (And, not to worry, you'll see how this will segue seamlessly into the topic of loons and grebes.) It seems the most recent "Hindsight" article (*The Loon* 80:94–100) erred about crediting South Dakota with records of Black-chinned and Broad-tailed hummingbirds. A website I had consulted was inaccurate, and I thank Doug Chapman for calling this to my attention. So, delete those two from the South Dakota list; at the same time, though, you can add Anna's to their list, since Doug also reported there was a recent first state record of that hummingbird.

Some readers might also have found my article defective in failing to discuss sugar-water recipes (certainly a highly controversial subject), when to remove feeders in the fall (always good for a prolonged and heated debate), and the notion of how hummingbirds migrate south on the backs of geese. Of course, there's no evidence to support that popular but fanciful migration myth, especially since another theory is they actually ride on the backs of migrating loons and grebes!

Think about it. Why else would loons and grebes show their distinctive "hump-backed" flight profile, if it weren't to provide a perch for hitchhiking hummingbirds? And those feet you see trailing behind a flying loon/grebe — obviously, they're in ideal position to catch any clumsy hummingbird falling off the back. There's even research suggesting that certain hummingbird species actually select

certain loon and grebe species. Accordingly, one way to learn your hummingbirds might be to brush up on your loon and grebe ID skills.

LOONS

Indeed, at the time of this writing in November, some recent loon reports demonstrate that this would be an opportune time for a discussion of their identification. Note that the following comments only apply to juveniles and adults in basic/winter plumage, since loons in alternate/breeding plumage are pretty straightforward (except for Arctic vs. Pacific loons, but an Arctic in that plumage here borders on the impossible).

You should refer to your *Sibley* field guide or one of the later editions of *Geographic* as you read this article, since it will not be repeating most of the information they illustrate. Nor will this pretend to be a comprehensively complete analysis. Not only isn't there enough time or space to do that here, but, more importantly, I'm just not that smart enough to pull it off — or dumb enough to try.

Flanks and Vents

Concentrating on any bird's undersides and rear end may not be for the squeamish, but with some loons it's exactly what needs to be done (especially, I suppose, if you're anal-retentive). Three of those recent loon reports mentioned above involved sightings on Lake Superior and Mille Lacs of loons with so-called flank patches. In other words, they all



Common Loon showing an obvious white flank patch.

showed white above the water line as they swam, either as an elongated area along the flanks or as an oval patch back by the tail. Such a mark is said to be a diagnostic feature of the Arctic Loon, a rare-regular visitor to Alaska never before seen in these parts.

It's understandable, then, when the observers got excited, but equally understandable is they were apparently unaware of little-known Loon Lesson I: *Any species of loon can have white flanks.*

Over the years, I have often seen Commons, Red-throateds, and Pacifics with white on the flanks, and there are photos I can show you to illustrate this. The amount of white can simply depend on how high the bird is riding in the water as it swims and how its flank feathers are arranged. So, white flanks alone do not necessarily indicate an Arctic Loon, although I'd definitely take a second look if there were lots of white along the sides and it flared up higher back by the tail. Conversely, by the way, an Arctic Loon riding low in the water might not show any white on the flanks: the only one I've ever seen in Alaska looked like this.

But don't avert your eyes from that loon's hindquarters quite yet, especially if it's a Pacific-type loon which you suspect could be an Arctic. Try to see if it has a so-called "ventstrap" — i.e., a dark line across the white feathers of the vent or under tail coverts. Such a feature, unfortunately, would be impossible to see unless the bird flew overhead or rolled on its side as it preened, but a solid and com-

plete strap would indicate a Pacific Loon and preclude an Arctic. A missing, partial, or faint strap, however, does not prove it's an Arctic Loon, since some Pacifics can look the same way. (Note as well that the reliability of this field mark is still under review.)

Bill and Crown Profiles

It's time to move on to Loon Lesson II: *Any species of loon can have an upturned bill.*

Just as white flanks can appear on any loon, I sometimes see Common and Pacific loons tilting their bills up above the horizontal, which naturally could lead to erroneous reports of a Red-throated. More diagnostic of a typical Red-throated Loon is its bill shape and bill-forehead-crown profile. The lower edge of the lower mandible angles slightly upwards, the culmen (i.e., top edge of the upper mandible) is straight, and there almost seems to be no forehead as the line of the culmen continues onto a relatively low and flat crown.

Red-throated Loons can sometimes hold their bills level as well, and consequently lack that classic "field guide" up-tilted look, but that distinctive bill shape should still be there. It's also worth noting here that adult Yellow-throated Loons have a similar bill shape, with lower mandible angled upwards and a straight culmen, although juvenile loons may not yet have achieved the adult's bill shape.

Speaking of shapes and profiles, just as Red-throated Loons tend to show a relatively flat crown, Pacific Loons usually have a low, rounded crown shape, Arctics typically have a higher, squarer crown profile, more like that of Common Loons, while the square crown of a Yellow-billed is often accentuated by "bumps" on the forehead and at the hindcrown. Be sure to keep in mind, though, that these profiles are variable and just average differences, so alone they are not diagnostic.

Bill Colors

Two of the other reports from this fall which prompted this article involved purported Yellow-billed Loons, with one

of these sightings of two individuals described as having yellow bills. The catch is that these birds were facing into the sun, so the apparent bill color may have been an artifact of the light conditions. More importantly, even if their bills were actually yellow, some Common Loons can show ivory-colored or even yellowish bills. (Indeed, it didn't take long for me to come across a couple of photos of yellow-billed Common Loons.)

The other sighting may not be any more convincing, but at least it's more interesting. First of all, this loon's bill is only described as "cream-colored" (not yellow), but the observer had the presence of mind to photograph it through a scope with a cell-phone camera. Though the photos are pretty marginal, they are good enough in my mind to suggest the loon was not a Yellow-billed, not even a Common, but actually a Pacific Loon! I'm fairly certain I can see a chinstrap and paler hindneck (both standard Pacific Loon field marks), and equally interesting is that one photo appears to show white flanks (see Loon Lesson I above), and another shows an up-tilted bill (see Loon Lesson II).

Just as a yellowish bill does not necessarily indicate a Yellow-billed Loon, be sure to note that many Yellow-billed Loons, especially juveniles, may have a non-yellow bill. Still, the most diagnostic feature on a Yellow-billed does involve its bill: rather than looking for yellow, though, examine its culmen and tip. If the distal half of the bill and culmen are pale, then it's a Yellow-billed (any darkness on its culmen is limited to the basal half). An all-dark culmen its entire length out to the tip would indicate a Common Loon.

Facial Features

Almost as important as the bill pattern on a Yellow-billed Loon is its head pattern. Most individuals — but not all — show an isolated dark spot or smudge on the ear coverts, and, if present, this is fairly diagnostic. Sometimes this mark is connected to the crown, but it will still appear relatively well defined. A few

Common Loons might show a suggestion of a smudge, but it tends to be less clearly delineated and typically merges with the nape. Again, though, remember that not all Yellow-billeds show this mark, so its absence can indicate either species.

As you smudge search on a suspected Yellow-billed Loon, take note of the generally paler (sometimes described as blond) overall appearance of its face, head, and neck when compared to most Common Loons. Be aware, however, that this paleness can be matched by some Common Loons, so alone it is not diagnostic.

The presence or absence of an eye ring is another facial feature worth considering on loons. For example, some references state that one way to distinguish a Pacific (or Arctic) Loon from a Common is whether or not there's a whitish eye ring. While it may be true that Commons "always" have an eye ring, it doesn't hold that all Pacifics lack one, so an eye-ringed loon could be either species. Yellow-billed Loons and juvenile Red-throateds have eye rings as well. An adult Red-throated in winter doesn't really have one, though, since its entire face and neck are white.

Collars and Chinstraps

As shown in the *Sibley* and *Geographic* guides, when separating a Pacific Loon from a Common (or, for that matter, an Arctic from a Yellow-billed), the best feature to examine is the pattern along the side of the neck. The Common's pattern is irregular, with a partial and usually rectangular "collar" protruding forward a bit from the hindneck into the whitish foreneck. The Pacific's line of demarcation between gray hindneck and white foreneck is more sharply delineated, straighter or smoothly curved, and often narrowly outlined by black.

I'd bet that most birders with loon experience are already aware of this difference, and that they also know a Pacific's crown, nape, and hindneck typically look paler gray than its back and darker forehead and lores, unlike a Common Loon. (By the way, a Red-throated's hindneck can also appear paler gray, and note an

Arctic's hindneck tends not to look as pale as a Pacific's.)

I'd wager as well that these same observers have heard of something called a "chinstrap," although I suspect not all of them know what or where it is. It's a dark line across the throat or chin at the top of the neck. Some observers probably get confused with the upper edge of a Common Loon's partial collar, which is up near the chin and could be mistaken for a chinstrap. It's also easy to mistake a crease or shadow in these feathers on any loon for a chinstrap.

And when dealing with the Pacific vs. Arctic problem, a genuine chinstrap — even if only partial — indicates you're looking at a Pacific Loon. However, as you may have already guessed, a lack of chinstrap doesn't really help you at all: not all Pacifics have one — nor do any Arctic.

Other Thoughts

From the smallest to largest loon, as the field guides show, we have Red-throated, Pacific, Arctic, Common, and Yellow-billed. Yet, the overall size of any loon may not be very evident, especially if there's nothing around for direct comparison. Even with comparison it can be tricky, since on occasion I have seen a few Pacifics that didn't appear especially smaller than the Commons next to them. More helpful would be to concentrate on the shape or bulk of a loon's neck and bill. For example, the thinness of a Red-throated's bill and neck would be more noticeable than its shorter body length.

Another thought worth mentioning here is that non-birders and beginners will frequently mistake distant Common Mergansers for loons. This is understandable, since these ducks typically show a long and low and, well, loon-like profile as they swim. A merganser's long neck-head-bill profile in flight is also somewhat loon-like — although, of course, they lack the loon's humpbacked shape since they have no hummingbirds to deal with!

Finally, with so many difficulties involved with loon identification, none of

the field guides, even your *Sibley* and *Geographic*, have all the answers. Additional references will help, and one of these is the loon chapter in *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding* by Kaufman, part of the *Peterson Field Guide Series*, which is still in print. There are also a few other loon ID articles in the various journals, including *Birding*, which I'd be glad to refer the reader to, or even lend out, upon request. (Beware, though, of what you find on your own: two widely-read loon ID articles are by those authors who also wrote unfortunate and counter-productive dowitcher articles — see my "Hindsight" rants in the Spring 2006 and Fall 2006 issues of *The Loon*.)

GREBES

Moving on to the grebes, this will be a shorter section since there are fewer difficult ID issues to deal with. As with the loon section above, the following applies just to juveniles and adults in basic/winter plumage (except for Western/Clark's grebes, which present problems as adults in summer), it will help to have your *Sibley* or *Geographic* at hand as you read this, and there will be no attempt to present a comprehensive analysis.

Pied-billed Grebe

Given any decent view of a Pied-billed in Minnesota, there's nothing really for you to confuse it with. Yes, I have seen birders initially mistake them for Least Grebes in Texas, but that's 1,500 miles away, and a second look will clear up any confusion. Pied-billeds in winter may lack a black bill ring and a juvenile's bill may look a bit thinner, but it is a generally brownish bird with dark eyes. On the other hand, Least are gray birds overall, their bills are thinner than on any Pied-billeds, and their eyes are pale: obviously bright yellow on adults, duller and more amber on juveniles (but not dark as on Pied-billeds).

Even in Minnesota, by the way, these differences are worth keeping in mind, since a lost Least Grebe has recently strayed in this direction as far as Arkan-

sas. Thus, its potential to appear even up this far north may not be entirely out of the question.

Horned and Eared Grebes

In most cases, especially in fall, the first thing I notice on a Horned Grebe is how white its neck and face are, with the relatively straight upper edge of its white face cleanly delineated from the dark cap. An Eared Grebe, on the other hand, typically looks grayer or dirty on the neck and face, with only a distinctive whitish patch on the ear coverts, and its face-cap border is not as sharp or as straight. But I admittedly have been confused by some juveniles and by some adults in transition from one plumage to another, when their appearances can vary and overlap.

Then it's time to try Plan B and look at head shape, an important feature which will resolve most ID difficulties. A Horned Grebe has a relatively flat crown, with no more than a slight peak towards its hind-crown; a more peaked crown profile is typical on the Eared Grebe, with its peak farther forward above the eye.

Still, there remain those juveniles with ambiguous crown profiles, since their head shapes may have not yet fully developed. Don't worry, though, since there is a Plan C, but it only works if you're close enough to the bird. If you can see a tiny whitish tip on the bill, it's a Horned Grebe; on the other hand, if you're quite sure that the tip is dark, then it should be an Eared. Also look to see whether or not there's a whitish patch on the lores (something easier to see than bill tip color): if there is, it's a Horned Grebe. Unfortunately, it doesn't follow that all-dark lores identify the grebe as an Eared, since some Horneds lack this patch.

Another point worth mentioning is that birders unfamiliar with Horned Grebes in fall can mistake a distant one for a Western, since both grebes look dark gray or blackish above and contrastingly white below, and size may be hard to determine. In such cases, it would be a Western Grebe only if the bill is obvious and

visible; the tiny bill on a distant Horned (or Eared) Grebe would be difficult to see at all.

Red-necked Grebe

A large bill would also serve as a good way to distinguish a Red-necked Grebe from a Horned/Eared Grebe when you're confronted with long distances or poor light. But otherwise, under reasonable conditions, Red-necked Grebes should present few ID difficulties, though I suspect at times they are mistaken for juvenile or molting adult Red-throated Loons. This confusion is not too surprising if the birder is concentrating too much on plumage and not enough on overall shape and posture, since both have dusky necks, often with a reddish wash, and are somewhat whiter on the cheeks.

Western and Clark's Grebes

If you still have some old copies of this journal lying around, like maybe from 19 years ago, it's worth getting out the Fall 1989 issue with its article on Western vs. Clark's Grebe identification (*The Loon* 61:99–108). Kaufman's *Advanced Birding* guide also has a brief chapter on these grebes. Even without these references at hand, your *Sibley* and *Geographic* guides stress bill color and face pattern as the two most important field marks: duller yellowish-green bill and black around the eye on a typical Western; brighter orange-yellow bill and white around the eye on a normal Clark's.

One thing to point out is that bill color is usually easier to see, less variable, and more straightforward than the facial pattern, even though it seems many birders tend to pay more attention to the latter. (By the way, I would add that the bill color on one of the Clark's Grebes in the *Geographic* guide is too dull and Western-like.)

There are other average differences between these two grebes, but none of those features alone would be diagnostic, since all are variable and overlapping. Still, these field marks can be worth not-

ing as supporting characteristics: the whiter flanks, paler back color, narrower hind-neck stripe, longer white wing stripe, and one-syllabled call on most Clark's Grebes; darker flanks and back, wider hindneck stripe, duller and shorter wing stripe, and a two-syllabled call on typical Westerns.

The main difficulty is when grebes with intermediate (hybrid?) characteristics are encountered, and such individuals can be impossible to identify with any certainty, especially when there are in-between or inconsistent face patterns (a disturbingly common occurrence) and bill colors. On a few occasions over the years, I have even seen grebes with one side showing Clark's-like orange-yellow bills, white around the eyes, and pale flanks — and then the grebes have turned around to reveal Western-like yellowish-green bills, eyes surrounded by black, and darker flanks on the other side!

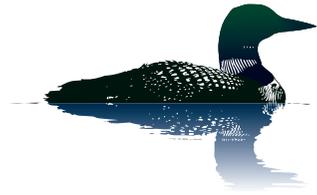
Hybridization may not be the sole source of the problem, and I suspect that

basic/winter-plumaged birds and juveniles tend to show the most problematic features. Whatever the case, be prepared to leave some of these grebes as unidentified. I'm sorry, but you're on your own. I'm afraid I can't help you.

Admit it — you're still skeptical about hummingbirds migrating on the backs of loons and grebes, aren't you? Well, ever wonder why you don't see grebes in flight very often? Simple: grebes are generally smaller than loons and naturally would have a harder time flying around carrying hummingbirds. If pressed into service, though, a grebe could manage with a tiny Calliope, though probably not with a big ol' Blue-throated. In fact, consider that there's never been a documented record of any grebe with a Blue-throated Hummingbird on its back!

1921 West Kent Road, Duluth, MN 55812.

Notes of Interest



SLATY-BACKED GULL IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY — An adult Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) first found by Karl Bardon at the Superior Landfill, Douglas County, Wisconsin, 21 December 2007, subsequently overwintered in the Duluth-Superior area through at least 15 March 2008. Most of the sightings were at Wisconsin Point or at the nearby Superior Landfill, but it was seen in the Duluth harbor on at least five dates. The first sighting in Duluth was 10 January 2008, when Jim Lind called to report a dark-mantled gull standing on the ice in the harbor. Jim, Mike Hendrickson, and I watched the bird for about 30 minutes, and Jim managed to “digiscope” the bird in flight. We suspected Slaty-backed Gull, but were unable to document the “string of pearls” and other diagnostic features of this species.



I refound and photographed the bird in the Duluth harbor 12, 13, and 27 Janu-

ary, and watched it for a total of 3 hours and 22 minutes in Minnesota. In February and early March, I had excellent looks and photographed the bird in Wisconsin for a total of 2 hours and 48 minutes on five different dates; after seeing the bird in flight and standing on top of the trash pile at the Superior Landfill, I became confident that it was the same individual seen in Duluth during January. Finally, on 15 March 2008, I refound the bird between Interstate Island and the W.L.S.S.D. wastewater treatment plant in Duluth, and had excellent looks at the bird in flight and standing on the ice on the Minnesota side of the state line. It eventually flew within 50 yards of me and I was able to clearly see its “string of pearls.”

Although many observers watched and photographed this bird at the Superior Landfill, including diagnostic images of the bird in flight by Joshua Christian on 26 January and Chris Wood on 4 February, to the best of my knowledge, there were no other sightings in Duluth. Field notes were taken each time that the bird was observed. The following description is based on these notes and was submitted along with photographs to the M.O.U. Records Committee and the W.S.O. Records Committee. Both states accepted the record; for Minnesota, it furnished the state’s fourth Slaty-backed Gull record in less than two years.

Size: Estimated to be about the same as a large Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) and smaller than Glaucous Gulls (*L. hyperboreus*). In flight, its wingspan was about the same as Herring Gull’s.

Bare parts: Bill yellowish with a reddish-orange gonydeal spot. Bill similar in shape to Herring Gull’s, but with a stronger gonydeal angle. Eye color difficult to determine in the field, but images taken 1 February show yellowish irides. Unable to determine color of orbital ring. Legs raspberry pink and relatively stout; feet captured in one of my images are shocking pink.

Head and neck: Head and neck white with grayish-brown streaking on crown, nape, face, sides of neck, and draping down onto breast-sides; streaking also concentrated around the orbit.

Back and wings: Back, scapulars, and upper wing-coverts slate gray, contrasting slightly with the black of its folded primaries. A broad white scapular crescent and a broad, white tertial crescent were noted at rest. The dorsal surface of its folded primaries showed small white apical spots. The ventral surface of P10 was observed through a spotting scope while the bird was standing on the trash pile at the Superior Landfill and can be seen in some of my images from 1 February; there was a large white mirror on P10 with a faint, grayish band across the tip. The outer web of the underside of P10 was blackish (also seen through my scope).

In flight, a broad, white trailing edge on the dorsal surface of its inner wing, and its dark mantle compared to the other gulls, were very obvious; however, the white trailing edge was not quite as broad as I expected. The ventral wing tips and remiges in flight looked much darker than Herring Gull’s underwing. Its wing linings were whitish. The classic “string of pearls,” formed by white subapical tongue tips on the middle primaries, was best seen when it raised its wings several times while standing on the trash pile at the landfill. Except when the bird was relatively close overhead and lighting was good, the “string of pearls” was fairly difficult to see on the ventral wing surface, and very difficult to detect on the dorsal wing surface. This probably explained why I had not been able to see the string of pearls at greater distances and under less favorable light conditions in January. One of my images taken at the landfill shows small, white, subapical tongue tips on P5 through P8 on the dorsal surface of the near wing. In flight, a large white mirror on P10 and a smaller white mirror on P9 were clearly visible on both wing surfaces.

Rump, tail-coverts, and tail: Entirely white.

Underparts: Breast (except for streaking on the breast-sides), belly, and flanks were

whitish.

I had previously seen two Slaty-backed Gulls in Alaska, and single adults in Cook County, Minnesota (late July 2006), Superior, Wisconsin (18 November 2006), and Dakota County, Minnesota (20 January 2007). Other species considered and eliminated included Western Gull (*L. occidentalis*), which does not show a “string of pearls” in flight and normally shows less white in its wingtip; Great Black-backed Gull (*L. marinus*), which is much larger and has a blackish mantle, a massive bill, and long, washed-out looking, grayish-pink legs; Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*), which has yellow legs and would be clearly smaller than this individual; and Kelp Gull (*L. dominicanus*), which has a blackish mantle and yellow legs. Hybrids between Slaty-backed Gull and other species have been reported, but I did not see any anomolous characters suggesting this possibility. **Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th St, Duluth, MN 55812.**

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE IN ANOKA COUNTY — On the evening of 4 May 2007,



Ann Hertzelt and I observed an adult Swallow-tailed Kite just north of Moore Lake in southern Anoka County.

This was a large, black and white bird about the size of a Herring Gull. In fact, at first we thought it was a Herring Gull, seeing the bird at a distance and from the side as it flew slowly at treetop level. But the bird's flight style was so peculiar, so “unconcerned,” that we continued to follow its movements as it headed in our direction. Wing beats were very deep, slow, and almost heavy though clearly graceful — again, immediately distinctive. The manner was so distinctive that we were quickly aware that this was not a gull. We studied it further as it approached, flew in front of us, and then to the south and out of view.

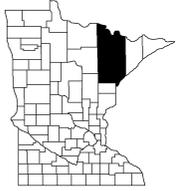
Seen from below, head and body — all the way to the under tail coverts — were entirely gleaming white, as were the under wing coverts. The rest of the bird appeared black. What we could see of the upper surface as the bird approached was very dark, if not black, though the lateness of day and overcast skies made seeing subtle changes in grays as well as intensities less than optimal. Bare parts not seen.

Structurally, this bird was very kite-like and very unlike a buteo. The wings were decidedly long and pointed, somewhat angled back at the wrist, though the trailing edge was much straighter. The forked tail was difficult to see at times only because of the angle of us to the bird, but at times as the bird passed us this field mark was also apparent. This bird is distinctive and would be difficult to confuse with any other species. Osprey may be considered superficially similar, but patterning, shape, and behavior is quite different, tail is not as long, dark, or forked, and wings are not pointed. **Anthony X. Hertzelt, 8461 Pleasant View Drive, Mounds View, MN 55112.**



Rough sketch of Swallow-tailed Kite, 4 May 2007. Anthony X. Hertzelt.

AN IVORY GULL VISITS DULUTH



— On 7 January 2008 at 11:24 A.M., I spotted a small white gull with a dark bill, blackish face, and black legs, standing on an ice floe east of the Maritime Museum at Canal Park, Duluth. I immediately recognized it as a first-cycle Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) and started making phone calls. At 11:37 A.M., before anyone else had arrived, the bird took flight and circled with a small flock of Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) for several minutes before landing again on another ice floe, considerably farther away from my position. I was unable to keep my spotting scope trained on the bird in flight,

so stood there with my binoculars on the bird until Kim Eckert arrived and got the bird in his spotting scope. I then drove down to the parking area near the Canal Park Lodge, refound the bird on the ice, and took field notes and digiscoped images from that location. Kim and other observers soon arrived at the Canal Park Lodge location, where the bird was watched by about a dozen birders until it suddenly took flight, circled high overhead, and departed to the west at 1:40 P.M. (I had already left and returned to work, but was watching through my office window and talking with Jim Lind by cell phone as the bird left the area). Despite much searching that afternoon and later in the week, the bird could not be refound.



Ivory Gull, 7 January 2008, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.

This stocky-looking gull was obviously smaller than the adjacent Herring Gulls, with a rounded head shape and long-winged appearance. Its bill was thick, short, and blackish, except that the tip looked paler at times; it was difficult to determine the exact bill color due to distance and light conditions. Its eyes were large-looking and appeared to be black. Its legs and feet were black. The bird looked all white at a distance, except for its blackish face and throat, and dark apical spots on its primary tips. At closer range, small dusky marks were visible on most of its lesser and median upper wing-coverts. A narrow, blackish, subterminal tail band was visible in flight. The dusky markings on its upper wing-coverts were best seen in flight. It appeared to show another black mark near the alula, but it was difficult to determine the exact shape and location of this mark in flight.

This represents the 11th Minnesota record and 5th St. Louis County record of this declining species, which had not been documented in the state since December 1991 (*The Loon* 64:3–5). In addition to one of the two 1991 birds in the Twin Cities, I have been fortunate to see this species in St. Croix County, Wisconsin, 10 January 1989, and at Grand Marais, Minnesota, 14 January 1990 (*The Loon* 62:3–4). **Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th St, Duluth, MN 55812.**



Common Redpoll, 26 January 2008, St. Louis County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

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Purpose of the M.O.U.

The purpose of the MOU is the promotion of a broad program of conservation and natural history study, primarily in the field of ornithology.

To achieve this objective, the Union urges and promotes interest in field studies and observation of birds by individual members and affiliated bird clubs. We publish a quarterly journal, *The Loon*, and a newsletter, *Minnesota Birding*; we conduct



field trips; we encourage and sponsor the preservation of natural areas; and we hold seminars where research reports, unusual observations, and conservation discussions are presented.

We are supported by dues from members, affiliated clubs, and special gifts. Any or all aspects of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials, or bequests willed to the organization.

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The Loon is a peer-reviewed journal on the birds of Minnesota published quarterly by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. The Editor welcomes submissions of articles, Notes of Interest, color slides, and photographs. All submissions should be typed, double-spaced, and single-sided. Notes of Interest should be less than two full pages. Photographs should be no smaller than 5"x7". Whenever possible, please include a digital copy of your submission in any standard format on floppy disk, CD, DVD, or via e-mail. Digital documents may be e-mailed to the Editor of *The Loon* — see inside front cover for contact information. Club information and other announcements of general interest should be sent to the Editor of our newsletter *Minnesota Birding* — see inside front cover for contact information. Bird sighting reports for each season should be sent to the Editor of "The Seasonal Report" — see "Key to The Seasonal Report" for contact information.



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Obituary

Charles Albert Evans

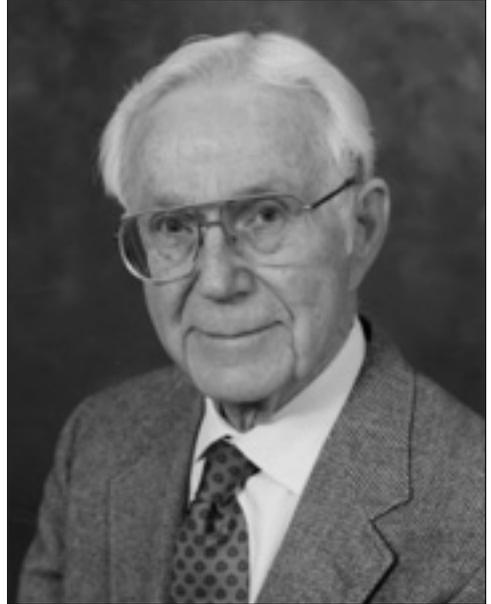
18 February 1912 – 4 December 2008

Anthony X. Hertzfel

Dr. Charles Albert Evans was born 18 February 1912 in Minneapolis. For the next 96 years, he was an energetic, innovative, adventurous spirit with a love of birds and nature. He died on 4 December 2008 in Seattle, WA.

Evans received his B.S., M.D., and Ph.D. (in medical microbiology) degrees from the University of Minnesota. During this time he was also working at the Bell Museum with Thomas S. Roberts and Walter Breckenridge. After graduation, he moved to Seattle where he became the founding chair of the University of Washington Department of Microbiology at the School of Medicine. Over the next 50 years, he published more than 200 papers, primarily in the area of virus infections, poliomyelitis, and tumor viology. According to the university, Evans was instrumental in establishing standards for clinical testing practices that were eventually adopted throughout the world. In writing about the poor quality of microbiological work in clinical laboratories during the 1940s and 1950s, Evans noted that laboratory tests were generally performed by persons with no scientific or technical training. He helped to modernize clinical testing practices in microbiology, certify lab personnel, and provide quality assurance guidelines for their procedures. He also served as chair of the University of Washington Faculty Senate and Associate Director of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Institute and he was the first director of the Office of Minority Affairs.

In 1929, Evans — at the age of 17 — along with Gustav Swanson, Alden Risser, and a few other enthusiastic young men, formed the Upper Mississippi Bird Club. They also established an ornithological journal, *The Flicker*; for this new organiza-



Charles A. Evans, 2000.

tion, and Charles was installed as the first editor, a position he held for two years. The first article to appear in its pages was authored by Evans (Evans, Charles A. 1929. A Tragedy in Bird-dom. *The Flicker* 1:1).

In an unpublished interview, Charles recalled that the Upper Mississippi Bird Club was formed strictly for fun. At the first meeting, he had suggested that they operate by Roberts Rules of Order, but Alden Risser “said no, no, it’s just for fun, let’s not be so formal.” And so it was informal.

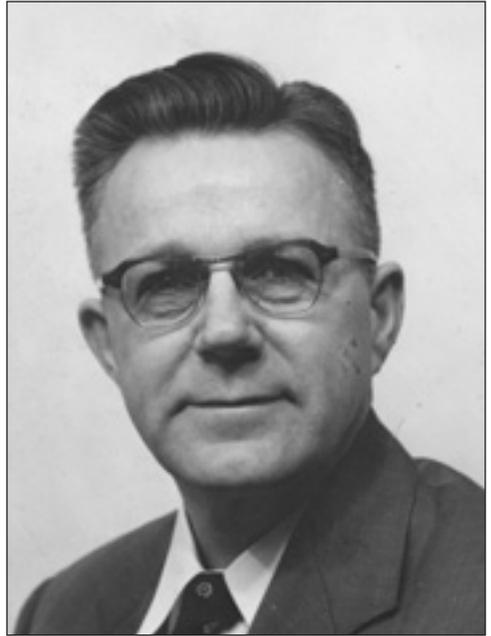
In May 1929, the club members re-named the organization “The Minnesota Bird Club.” In 1938, they, along with the Duluth Bird Club and the T. S. Roberts Ornithology Club of St. Cloud, joined

forces to become the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and Charles returned as editor for another two years. Thus he was the only person to be editor of *The Flicker* while it was the journal of all three incarnations of the MOU — the Upper Mississippi Bird Club, the Minnesota Bird Club, and finally the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union.

In 2002, I found Charles retired in Seattle with his wife of 65 years, Allie. We corresponded often and he presented himself as an erudite teacher with a thoroughly engaging personality. I discovered that he was still intensely curious about nature, in his spare time having studied everything from bat hibernation to butterfly migration.

Charles was the last surviving charter member of our organization. We all would have benefited by knowing him better.

8461 Pleasant View Drive, Mounds View, MN 55112.



Charles A. Evans, 1955.

Presence of Breeding Northern Hawk Owls (*Surnia ulula*) in Minnesota, 2006

By David Grosshuesch

Northern Hawk Owls (*Surnia ulula*) can be found breeding throughout the circumboreal regions of the world, ranging from Alaska to Newfoundland and Scandinavia through Siberia (Duncan and Duncan 1998). They are considered a nomadic species within their range, concentrating in areas with high prey abundance, and occupying boreal forest landscapes often influenced by disturbance (Duncan and Harris 1997, Sonerud 1997, Hannah and Hoyt 2004). Generally every 3–5 years winter irruptions of Hawk Owls occur into southern regions of their range, which are likely associated

with vole population cycles (Duncan and Duncan 1998, Cheveau *et al.* 2004). Temporal shifts in vole populations and increased hawk owl productivity may influence the magnitude of irruptions (Duncan and Duncan 1998).

In Minnesota, Northern Hawk Owls are considered a regular migrant and winter visitor, being observed nearly every winter, albeit in small numbers most years (Janssen 1987, Eckert pers. comm.). However, 11 notable hawk owl irruptions have been documented in Minnesota since the 1960s (Eckert 2005), including the most recent irruption during the winter of 2005

– 06 (Mattsson and Svingen 2006). Prior to 1960, documentation of hawk owl irruptions has been based mostly on anecdotal reports and will not be included in this paper. The largest winter irruption of hawk owls was documented in 2004–05 (n=475), with the second highest irruption occurring during the winter of 2000–01 (n=190) (Svingen *et al.* 2001, Svingen and Nicoletti 2005).

Historically, Northern Hawk Owls have remained in the southern regions — including Minnesota — of their breeding range to nest following large irruptions (Smith 1970, Janssen 1987, Duncan and Duncan 1998). Janssen (1987) stated that hawk owls are an accidental summer resident occurring in two or fewer years each decade. Since the 1960s, there has been documented breeding in six of the past 11 irruptions, with two in non-irruption years (Table 1).

Prior to the 2005–06 irruption, nesting had been confirmed at 14 sites, representing nine active nests and five sites with short-tailed young. These occurred in seven counties: Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, and Aitkin. There are also two presumed breeding records for Minnesota before 1960 (Norman County in 1884 and Roseau County in 1906), but they will not be included because both records are unconfirmed (Roberts 1932). Following the 2004–05 irruption, several pairs and individuals were found throughout the breeding season, though breeding was not confirmed at any location (Auer *et al.* 2005, Kessen 2006). Interestingly, following the smaller 2005–06 irruption (n=139), relatively large numbers of Northern Hawk Owls were again observed lingering into the breeding season. The presence of hawk owls during the 2006 breeding season offered an opportunity to study the extent and biology of nesting in Minnesota.

Methods

Study area

The study area was exclusively within the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province

(LMFP) of Minnesota, which comprises the accepted breeding distribution of Northern Hawk Owls. The province includes much of north-central and north-eastern Minnesota and is characterized by coniferous — both upland and lowland — and mixed deciduous/coniferous forests. This area is comprised of five Ecological Sections (ES): 1) the Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (MOP), 2) the Northern Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains (MDL), 3) the Western Superior Uplands (WSU), 4) the North Shore Uplands (NSU), and 5) the Southern Superior Uplands (SSU) (MNDNR 2003). In 2006, hawk owl nests were located in the MOP ES and the NSU ES. The MOP ES is dominated by flat, poorly drained soil. Land cover is dominated by bogs and swamps in lowland areas and mesic to wet mixed forest. The NSU ES has extensive topographic relief and is dominated by mixed deciduous/coniferous forest with scattered bogs and wetlands. Logging and agriculture are the main human influences on the landscape within these Ecological Sections; however, agriculture is much more prevalent in the MOP than in the NSU.

Data collection

Northern Hawk Owl nests were found opportunistically by searching areas where one or both adults had been observed during the breeding season (March to June). Nests are usually located in cavities, hollow treetops in snags, or occasionally in abandoned stick nests. Nest height can range from <1 to 21 meters (Duncan and Duncan 1998). In general, behavioral cues were used to locate nests, such as observing a prey delivery, hearing adult vocalizations near the nest, or hearing nestling or fledgling vocalizations. Nests located after fledging were confirmed by finding addled eggs in the nest or by the presence of feces, pellets, and prey remains in and below the nest. Nests were monitored or visited one time, depending on the nesting stage when found, to determine nest fate. Nests were considered successful if nestlings survived to a band-

Table 1. Comparison of Northern Hawk Owl irruption years to breeding occurrence in Minnesota. LOW = Lake of the Woods.

Irruption Year	#Observed	Breeding Year	#Nests Found	#Confirmed Breeding	County / Citation
1962-63	47-125	1963		1	St. Louis (Strnad 1963)
1977-78	9				
1986-87	9	1980	2		Aitkin, LOW (Green 1981, Kehoe 1982)
		1987	1		Roseau (Lane and Duncan 1987)
		1988		1	Lake (Weins 1989)
1990-91	16				
1991-92	159	1992	1		St. Louis (Wilson 1993)
1995-96	47				
1996-97	100				
2000-01	190	2001	3	3	Koochiching, St. Louis, Lake, Cook (Grosshuesch 2003)
2001-02	35	2002	2		Cook (Grosshuesch 2003)
2004-05	475				
2005-06	139	2006	9	3	(See Figure 2)

Table 2: Comparison of Northern Hawk Owl nest outcome, estimated nest initiation date, and clutch size in Minnesota, 2006.

Nest	Date Found	Nest Stage	Est. Nest Initiation	Est. Clutch size	Outcome
GL-2	1 April	Pre-incubation	2-8 April	Unknown	Fail
SK-1	29 April	Incubation	Unknown	Unknown	Fail
BN-1	13 May	Nestling	11-15 April	3	3
CN-1	23 May	Nestling	15-19 April	Unknown	Unknown
KN-1	27 May	Nestling/Fledgling	6-10 April	5	5
KN-2	2 June	Fledgling	29 March - 2 April	6	4
ROS-1	2 June	Fledgling	27-31 March	4	3
ROS-2	3 June	Nestling/Fledgling	10-14 April	3	3
KN-3	7 June	Fledgling	12-16 April	Unknown	3+

Table 3: Comparison of Northern Hawk Owl nest contents monitored in Minnesota, 2006.

Nest	Date	Contents	Date	Contents	Date	Contents	Date	Contents
GL-2	4/1	Pre-incubation	4/8	Eggs	5/10	Female on nest	5/25	Egg fragments (Fail)
SK-1	4/29	Eggs	5/16	Unknown (Fail)	5/18	2+ dead yg. in nest (Fail)		
BN-1	5/13	Nestlings	5/20	Nestlings	5/30	Nestlings (3 near fledging)		
CN-1	5/23	Nestlings (2+)	5/27	Nestlings (2+)	6/1	Nestlings (2+)	6/7	Empty

able age or if young had fledged. Nests were considered unsuccessful if egg shell fragments or nestling remains were located prior to a probable fledging date. Each nest was visited between two and four weeks after the young had fledged or the nest failed to collect habitat data at the nest site. Specific habitat characteristics at or surrounding the nest will not be included in this paper.

Nesting chronology

Nesting chronology was estimated for nests through monitoring and by determining the age of nestlings or recently fledged young. Nestling age was determined by using the equation: age = (wing chord - 13) / 4.44, developed by Shook (2002) using regression analysis of nestling measurements of Northern Hawk Owls in Alaska. The estimated laying date

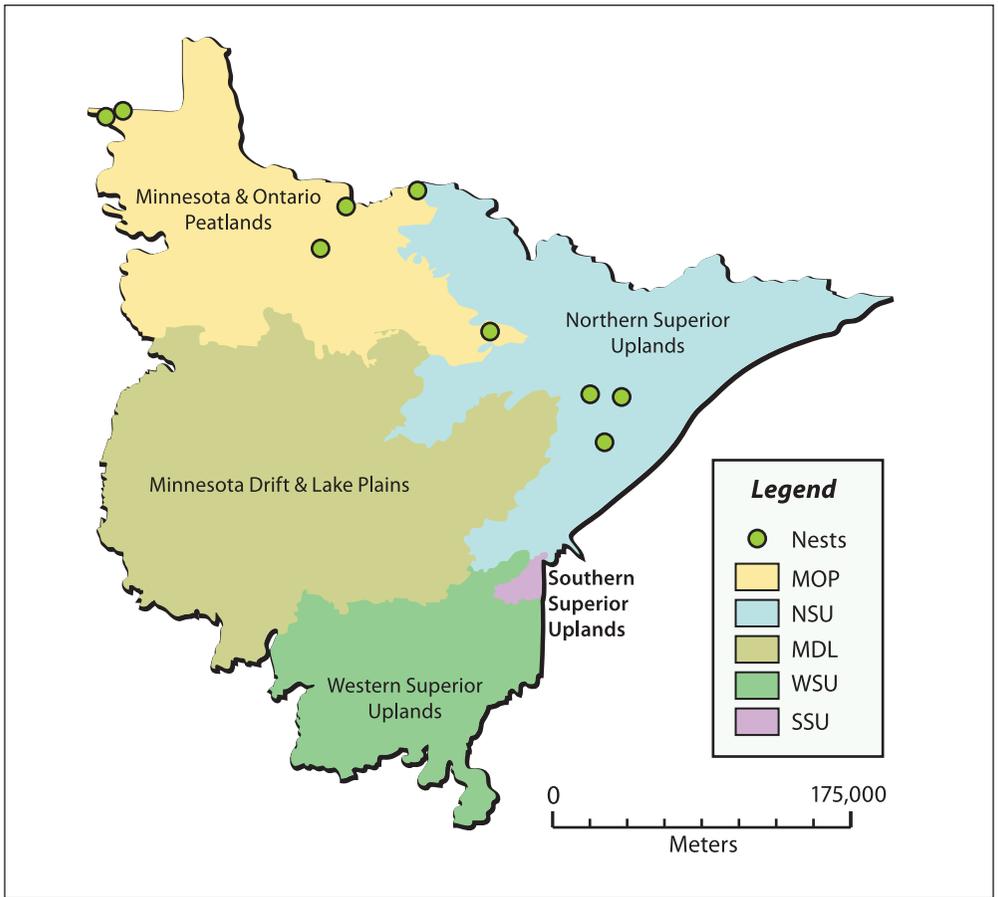


Figure 1. Northern Hawk Owl nests within the five Ecological Sections of the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province.

(i.e. nest initiation) was determined by calculating the hatch date from the age of nestlings or recently fledged young and using a 25–29 day incubation period (average = 27 days) (Mikkola 1983, Godfrey 1986). The fledging period was estimated at nest sites where both nestlings and fledglings occurred.

Results

Nine Northern Hawk Owl nests were located in the LMFP of Minnesota, with five found in the MOP ES and four in the NSU ES (Figure 1). There were also three other locations where breeding was confirmed by the presence of short-tailed

fledged young, with two in the NSU and one in the MOP Ecological Section. Of the 12 confirmed breeding locations, there were three in Koochiching, three in Lake, three in St. Louis, two in Roseau, and one in Beltrami County (Figure 2). In addition to the 12 confirmed breeding records, breeding season sightings of hawk owls were documented in four counties, with two in Lake of the Woods and one in each of Clearwater, Itasca, and Roseau (Figure 2). Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, and Itasca represent counties where confirmed breeding was not detected in 2006.

Three of the five nests in the MOP ES

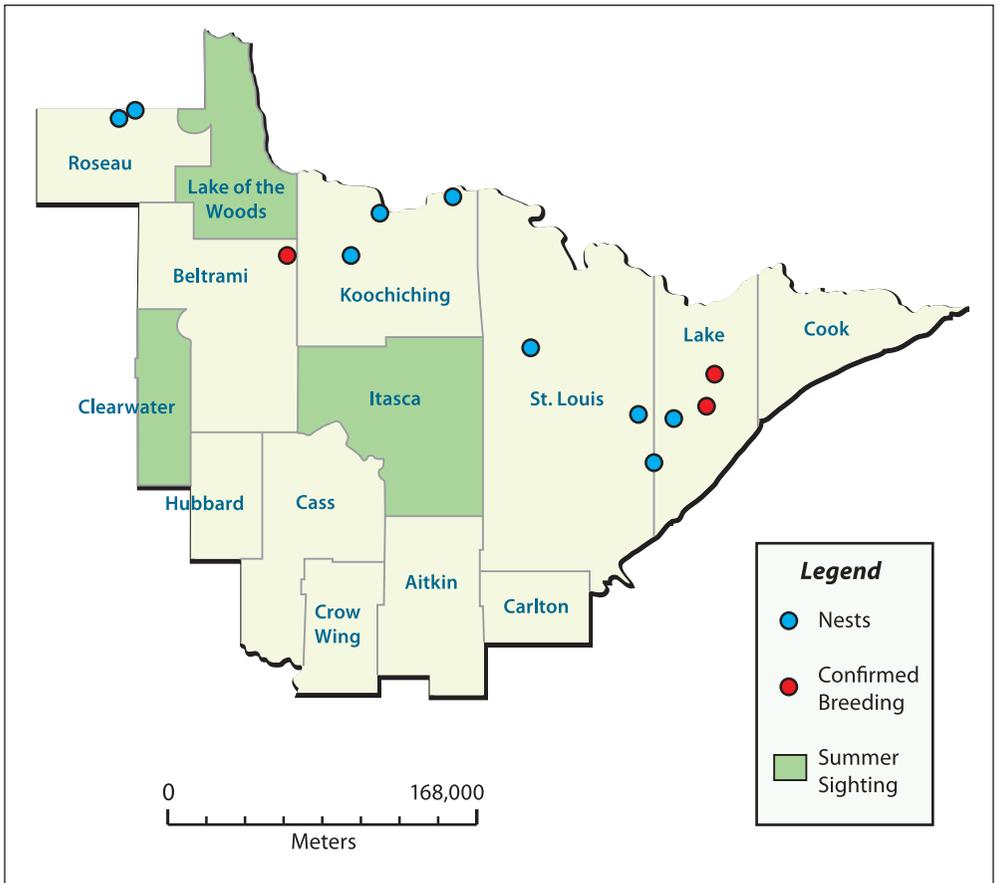


Figure 2. 2006 Northern Hawk Owl nest locations, confirmed breeding sites (short-tailed young found), and summer sightings in Minnesota.

had agriculture as a landscape component of the nest area. Logging was a component at the other two nest sites. At all nest sites within the MOP ES, bog habitat was a component of the nest area. Only one nest site in the NSU ES had agriculture as a landscape component of the nest area, with logging being the main landscape component at the other three sites. Bog habitat was a component with three of the four nest sites in the NSU ES.

All of the Northern Hawk Owl nests were located in deciduous trees, with seven in hollow tops of snags and two in cavities. Nests were found between April and June, with one located prior to incubation, one during incubation, two during

the nestling stage, two during the nestling/fledgling stage, and three just after the young fledged (Table 2). Two of the nests located after the young fledged contained addled eggs, with the third nest confirmed by the presence of feces, pellets, and prey remains in and below the cavity. In all cases when a nest was located after fledging, the young were found within 10 to 80 m of the nest tree and incapable of sustained flight.

Four nests were sporadically monitored, with the remaining five nests found just prior to or after fledging and visited one time (Table 3). Nest fate was determined for eight of nine nests, with six of eight (75%) nests considered successful

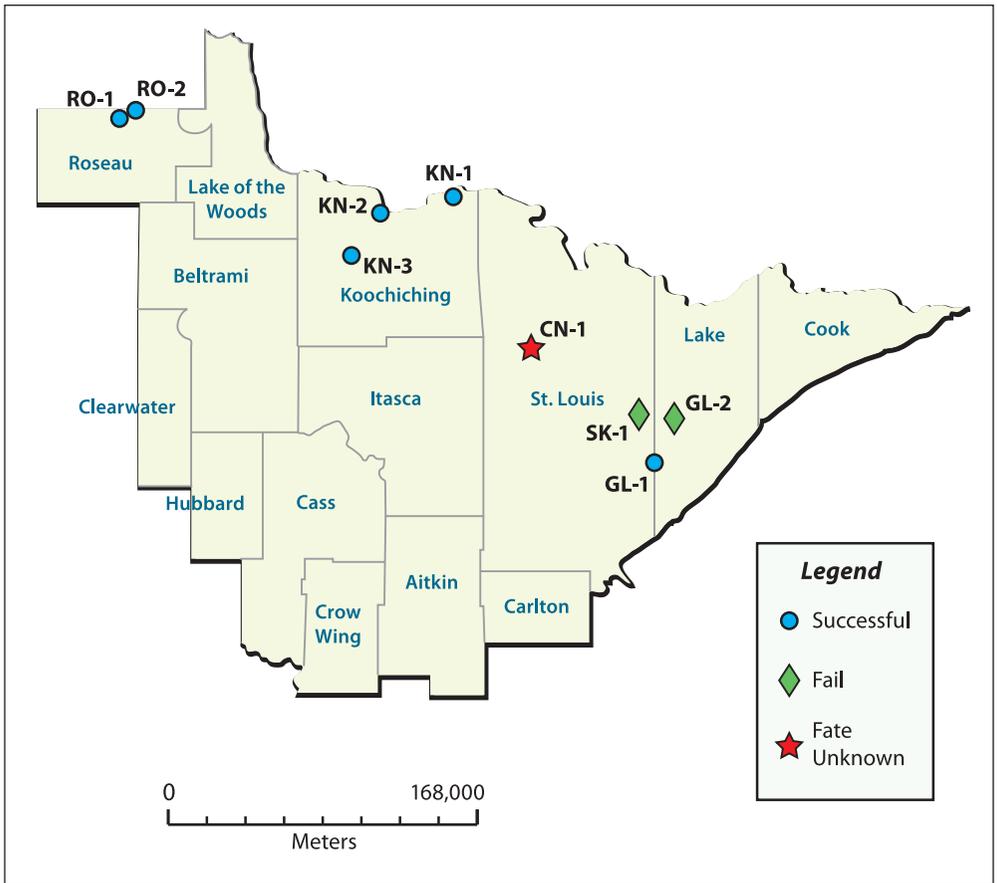


Figure 3: Location and nest fate of Northern Hawk Owl nests in Minnesota, 2006.

(Figure 3, Table 2). The average estimated nest initiation interval was April 6–10 (range: March 27–31 to April 15–19, $n=8$), with an average date of April 8. The average estimated nestling period was 23.5 days (range: 21–26, $n=2$). The average estimated clutch size was 4.2/nest (range: 3–6, $n=5$). The average estimated number of young produced was 3.6/nest (range: 3–5, $n=5$).

Discussion

Previous to the 2006 breeding season, nesting had been documented in seven counties (Table 1). Nesting was confirmed in four of the previously documented counties, with a new record occurring in

Beltrami County. The magnitude of the 2004–05 irruption presumably contributed to the relatively large number of nests located in 2006. It remains a mystery why no breeding was detected in 2005 following the 2004–05 irruption.

Historically, only one Northern Hawk Owl nest has been located along the southern boundary of the LFMP (Aitkin County, 1980). Although large numbers of hawk owls could be found in the southern region of the LFMP during the winter of 2004–05, no nests were documented. A presumed nesting attempt was reported in the Sax/Zim bog area in 2005, but subsequent visits could not confirm this. During poor food years in winter/spring,

some raptors will breed later in spring or not breed at all (Newton 1979), and it seems plausible that prey abundances were limited in the Sax/Zim bog area during the breeding season of 2005. Interestingly, all nests located in 2006 were in areas that few or no hawk owls were found during the Winter Owl Survey of 2004–05 (Grosshuesch and Lind unpublished data).

Overall, numbers of documented Northern Hawk Owl nests in Minnesota remain relatively few; however, there seems to be a pattern of nesting since the 1990s. During this time, there have been four echo irruption years, meaning back-to-back winters with relatively high numbers of hawk owls found (accounting for eight irruptions). Nesting has occurred in three of the four echo irruptions, and four of the eight irruptions. During one echo irruption (2000–01 and 2001–02), nesting was documented in both years (Grosshuesch 2003). Since 2000, nesting has been documented in three of the four irruptions. The periodicity of nesting in Minnesota since the 1990s may be a new phenomenon, but it may also be related to other factors, such as the increased number of birders (i.e. effort), new communication technologies among researchers, or recent large natural disturbances providing ample nesting habitat (e.g. 1999 blow-down, Cavity and Ham Lake fires). Regardless of the potential explanations for a possible pattern of breeding in Minnesota, the state may be of relative importance to the Northern Hawk Owl population.

Estimated nest initiation dates (i.e. egg laying dates) for hawk owls in Minnesota ranged from 29 March to 17 April (n=8). This was earlier than nests from Alaska (19 April to 4 May, n=18) and the Yukon (19 April to 11 May, n=9) (Duncan and Duncan 1998, Shook 2002). In Alberta, nest initiation ranged from 3–28 April (n=19), which could be considered slightly later than Minnesota. This suggests that at more northerly latitudes hawk owls initiate nesting later in the season. Delayed nest initiation in raptors seems to be a normal pattern caused by the arrival of a

later spring (Newton 1979).

The average estimated clutch size of 4.2 (n=5) in Minnesota was smaller than the clutch size of 5.3 (n=8) in Alaska (Shook 2002). This represents a typical observation for raptors in more northern latitudes (Newton 1979). Despite the observed pattern, prey availability and age of the breeding female may influence individual clutch sizes. In Fennoscandia, it was found that the amplitude of vole cycles was much greater in northern latitudes compared to the seasonal fluctuations of voles in southern regions (Hansson and Henttonen 1985, Hansson and Henttonen 1988, Hanski *et al.* 1991). Also, Korpimäki and Krebs (1996) stated that in southern boreal regions vole populations may only exhibit limited density changes. This suggests that prey availability may be the controlling influence on clutch sizes in nomadic avian predators breeding in both northern and southern latitudes.

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The Spring Season

1 March through 31 May 2008

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James W. Lind⁴, and William C. Marengo⁵

Ross's Geese were found in 21 counties, down from 25 in 2007. **Cackling Geese**, on the other hand, were located in almost half the counties — up from only 31 in 2007. Minnesota's sixteenth **Brant** loitered in Duluth for a week in late May. Two **Cinnamon Teal**, one each in Hennepin and Polk, stayed for only a day in April. One of two **Barrow's Goldeneyes** found in the Southeast during the winter lingered into the spring season.

Up to 20 **Red-throated Loons** were observed from Park Point. The only other report of this species was from Lake Osakis. **Pacific Loons** were also found off of Park Point, with one record early report from Olmsted. Late ice-out caused loons and grebes to accumulate in large numbers in the Twin Cities in mid-April, and probably led to the high counts that appeared in the north towards month's end. One **Clark's Grebe** was discovered farther east than normal in Blue Earth County.

As during last spring, only one **Little Blue Heron** and no **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were discovered. A **Cattle Egret** produced a first county record for Clearwater. A total of four **White-faced Ibis** was reported from two locations, while another five individuals were prudently left unidentified as to species.

The second state record **White-tailed Kite** was nicely photographed in Mower, though it disappeared later that same day. Another one-day wonder was an adult **Mississippi Kite** at the Bass Ponds in Hennepin. Marshall hosted a **Ferruginous Hawk** and another was seen along the Mississippi River bluffs in Stearns/Sherburne. A **Prairie Falcon** was found



Partial albino Red-winged Blackbird, 31 March 2008, Edina, Hennepin County. Photo by Ari Malek.

in Chippewa.

Piping Plovers were distributed across the state — in Brown, Polk, and St. Louis. A **Black-necked Stilt** near Wilmar and the first **Long-billed Curlew** for Big Stone were both seen only one day. **Whimbrels** were located only in the Northeast, including 78 on Paradise Beach in Cook. The four highest state counts of this species have all been from Cook in late May.

Aside from first county records of **Little** and **Glaucous Gulls** in the West-central region, the most interesting gulls were all from St. Louis where **Lesser Black-backed**, **Slaty-backed**, and **Great Black-backed Gulls** were all seen. Surprisingly, Virginia competed with Duluth for the gull hot spot in this county, with two intriguing reports of unidentified

dark-mantled gulls in addition to **Iceland Gull** and **Great Black-backed Gull**.

With reports from 22 counties, **Eurasian Collared-Doves** are clearly continuing their expansion. And yet another **White-winged Dove** appeared in Cook — the third in that county in the last six years. A **Burrowing Owl** located near Moorhead made this the sixth year of the last seven in which this species has been recorded in the state.

A **Say's Phoebe** graced Grand Marais briefly in April. It was one of only three Casual passerines to be found this season. **Tufted Titmice** were found as far north as Anoka, and as far west as Martin. Surprisingly, **Carolina Wrens** were only reported from Ramsey. A male **Mountain Bluebird** was found associating with Easterns in Meeker. Three each of **Townsend's Solitaire** and **Varied Thrush** were found statewide. Down from 21 reports in Spring 2006 and 12 last spring were 9 reports of **Northern Mockingbird**.

At the Dodge Nature Center in Dakota, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was a nice surprise. **Cerulean Warbler** reports were consistent in number with the prior spring — good news for this struggling species. Four **Kentucky Warblers** were located in May, while the lone **Yellow-breasted Chat** of the season was in Mower.

Eight **Summer Tanagers** were a nice showing, as were six **Western Tanagers** — all but one of the latter appearing in a brief window in mid-May. A male **Lazuli Bunting** in Hennepin didn't linger. Five **Hoary Redpolls** were more than usual for the spring. **Great-tailed Grackles** were confined to the southern border counties.

Weather summary: Mean temperatures throughout the season were three to six degrees below normal. Lake ice-out lagged about one to two weeks behind historical averages, which impacted waterfowl migration, and cool temperatures in May — including below freezing temperatures as late as 28 May in northern Minnesota — postponed many of the nor-

mal signs of spring.

On the precipitation side, below average snowfall from the second half of winter continued into March, though this changed in April due primarily to four significant snow storms which prolonged winter weather in the state. In May precipitation returned to normal levels, except for the Northwest where rainfall remained below normal.

Undocumented reports: **Snowy Egret** 4/23 Ramsey (4); **Northern Goshawk** 5/11 Faribault; **Long-billed Dowitcher** 5/24 Mower; **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 3/30 Lac Qui Parle; **Common Tern** 4/12 Mower, 4/16 Hennepin, 4/16 St. Louis; **Connecticut Warbler** 5/11 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.), 5/14 Yellow Medicine (Upper Sioux Agency S.P.); **Eastern Towhee** 4/9 Mille Lacs; **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** 4/16 Hennepin, 5/11 Big Stone, 5/15 Lac Qui Parle, 5/22 Chippewa; **Rusty Blackbird** 5/28 Rice; **Eastern Meadowlark** 5/8 Big Stone.

Acknowledgements: We thank Anthony Hertzell, Jeanie Joppru and Jim Lind for providing transcripts of Minnesota's weekly birding reports. Special thanks to Dave Cahlander for building and maintaining the seasonal reports submission web page (<http://moumn.org/moureports/season.php>). Medians of recent arrivals and departures were compiled and calculated by Paul Budde from published and unpublished seasonal report data from 1985 through 2007. Finally and most importantly, our appreciation goes out to all our contributors. We are especially grateful to those who respond to our requests for details and who submit observations online.

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KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT

1. Upper case (**LEAST TERN**) indicates a Casual or Accidental species in the state.
2. Species are listed in brackets [**Whooping Crane**] when there is a reasonable doubt as to its origin or wildness.
3. Bracketed text following a species' name indicates the total number of north and south counties.
4. Dates listed in bold (**10/9**) indicate an occurrence either earlier, later, or within the three earliest or latest dates on file.
5. Counties listed in bold (**Aitkin**) indicate an unusual occurrence for that county.
6. Counties with an underline (**Becker**) indicate a first county record.
7. Counties listed in italics (*Crow Wing*) indicate a first county breeding record.
8. Counts listed in bold (**150**) indicate a total within or exceeding the top three high counts for that species.
9. Dagger "+" preceding observer's initials denotes documentation was submitted.
10. Species documented with a photograph are denoted with "ph".
11. Species documented with video tape are denoted with "v.t."

The *Seasonal Report* is a compilation of seasonal bird sightings from throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor, contact the Editor of the Seasonal Report, Paul E. Budde, 4612 Colfax Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55419, or via e-mail at paul.budde@benfieldgroup.com.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) — [29 South, 6 North] Early south (median 3/7) 3/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Olmsted LAV, 3/12 Chippewa BJU. Early north (median 3/27) 3/19 Otter Tail SPM, 3/21 Traverse MCA. Late south 5/2 Swift BJU, 5/10 Mower ARW (median 5/15). Only north report in May: 5/13+ St. Louis (Duluth) †PHS, SZi, m.ob. High counts 3/15 Jackson (5,500) and Nobles (3,060) PEJ, 3/12 Lac Qui Parle (2,350) BJU.

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) — [29 South, 7 North] Early south (median 3/1) 3/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/15 Jackson and Nobles DFN, PEJ. Early north (median 3/27) 3/21 Traverse MCA, 3/28 Kanabec CAM. Late south 5/23 Mower JEM, 5/31 Jackson RBJ (median 5/24), but also see summer report. Late north 5/1 Otter Tail DPG, 5/17 St. Louis PHS (median 5/26). Peak migration 3/30 in West-central region (estimated total of 50,000 in 5 counties, including 15,000+ resting on ice of Lake Traverse) SPM. Additional high counts 3/21 Nobles (2,500) BTS, 3/25 Lyon (2,000) BTS.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) — [19 South,

3 North] Early south (median 3/20) 3/6 Olmsted JWH, 3/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/15 Jackson and Nobles DFN, PEJ. Only north records: 3/30 Grant SPM, 4/25–5/5 St. Louis (Virginia) DBF, †SLF, 4/28 Traverse (2 in Folsom Twp.) BJU. Only May south report: 5/5 Big Stone (Thielke Lake) KRE.

BRANT (*Branta bernicla*) — [1 North] A bird of the "Atlantic" race (*brota*) in **St. Louis** (Bayfront Park, Duluth) 5/19–27 provided the sixteenth state record (†LBe, ph. †JWL, ph. †PHS, ph. †KRE, ph. DAC, ph. MSS).

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) — [33 South, 7 North] Documented in 14 counties. Early south (median 2/19) 3/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/12 Chippewa BJU. Early north (median 3/18) 3/22 Cass BAW, 4/5 Clay MJJ, St. Louis †PHS. Late south 4/21 Mower JEM, 4/26 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 5/13). Late north 5/5 Traverse KRE, 5/15 Clay and Norman HHD (median 4/27). High counts 3/15 Martin (198) DFN, PEJ, 4/13 Freeborn (150 at Bear Lake) DFN. New county records: 4/3 **Renville** JEB, 4/6 **Rock** (2 at Blue Mounds S.P.) DBM. Observers are asked



Brant, 15 May 2008, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by James W. Lind.

to document all sightings with notes, photographs, or recordings to improve our understanding of this species in the state.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) — [51 South, 33 North] Reported from 84 counties statewide.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) — [2 South] All reports: 5/5 Wabasha (Weaver Bottoms) HHD, JWH, 5/10 Meeker (Jewett Lake) DMF.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) — [35 South, 28 North] New county record 3/29 **Redwood** DPG. Unusual Northeast reports 4/29 Lake (5 photographed at Gooseberry Falls S.P.) *vide* JWL, 5/19 Lake (10 vocalizing birds at Silver Bay) *vide* JWL, 5/24 Cook (2 at Good Harbor Bay) DFN. Please continue to report numbers, exact locations, and dates of observations.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) — [27 South, 17 North] Early south (median 3/11) 3/6 Olmsted JWH, 3/26 Rice DAB. Early north (median 3/27) 3/15 Morrison DTM, 4/3 Kanabec CAM, Polk GT. Late south 4/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/19 Hennepin MCA (median 5/5). Late north 5/13 Lake of the Woods MHK, Marshall *vide* JMJ, 5/22 Pennington and Polk PHS (median 5/28). High counts 4/6 Hennepin (500 at Lake Hiawatha) DDo, 4/5 Sherburne (445) ASC, NSc.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) — [52 South, 34 North] See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/17) 3/21 Otter Tail SPM, 3/22 Itasca EEO, 3/29 Becker ABL, Hubbard MAW, Mille Lacs ASC.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) — [49 South, 27 North] See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north

(median 3/23) 3/28 St. Louis SLF, 3/30 Cass BAW, Otter Tail *fide* JMJ.

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) — [48 South, 20 North] Early south (median 3/1) 3/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/10 Mower JEM. Early north (median 3/24) 3/29 Otter Tail DST, 3/30 Cass DAY.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) — [21 South, 9 North] Late south 5/5 Dakota DKo, 5/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 5/17). Other west reports: 3/15 Jackson DFN, PEJ, 4/4 Lyon RBW, 4/6 Rock DBM, 5/22 Polk PHS. High count 4/9 St. Louis (22 in Duluth harbor) PHS.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) — [52 South, 35 North] Reported from all 87 counties.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) — [52 South, 32 North] Early south (median 3/11) 3/10 Mower JEM, 3/20 Meeker DMF. Early north 3/29 (median) Becker ABL, 3/30 Cass BAW, Lake JWL.

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*) — [1 South, 1 North] Adult males 4/7 Hennepin (Bass Ponds) ph. SLP, †CMB, †BAF, ph. DAC, 4/26 Polk (Crookston W.T.P.) ph. †ALD, †KRE, m.ob.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) — [52 South, 30 North] Early south (median 3/4) 3/1 Dakota DCZ, 3/7 Wabasha KCR. Early north (median 3/27) 3/29 Otter Tail DST, 3/31 Cass BAW. High counts 4/16 St. Louis (605 at Duluth) PHS, 4/12 Yellow Medicine (500) RBJ.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) — [44 South, 21 North] See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/20) 3/29 Becker ABL, Otter Tail DST, Wilkin SPM, 4/4 Douglas JPE, Marshall MA, Otter Tail AJD.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) — [48 South, 25 North] Early south (median 3/6) 3/4 Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/13 Brown BTS, Meeker DMF. Early north



Cinnamon Teal, 7 April 2008, Bloomington, Hennepin County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

(median 3/27) 3/25 Cass DAY, 3/29 Becker ABL, Wadena PJB.

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) — [49 South, 21 North] Early south away from overwintering areas (median 2/28) 3/2 Dakota, Hennepin PEJ, 3/12 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (median 3/28) 4/4 Douglas JPE, St. Louis PHS, 4/10 Lake JWL.

Redhead (*Aythya americana*) — [49 South, 26 North] Early south away from overwintering areas (median 2/26) 3/1 Goodhue BAF, 3/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/5 Olmsted LAV. Early north (median 3/25) 3/22 St. Louis PHS, 4/4 Douglas JPE. High count 4/22 St. Louis (355 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) — [52 South, 34 North] Early south away from overwintering areas (median 2/28) 3/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 3/7 Wabasha KCR. Early north (median 3/20) 3/15 Itasca SC, 3/29 Cass BAW. High counts 4/22 St. Louis (1,186 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 4/26 Anoka (746 at Carlos Avery W.M.A.) CKB.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) — [41

South, 17 North] Early south away from overwintering areas (median 3/9) 3/2 Dakota PEJ, 3/13 Hennepin PEJ, Rice DAB. Early north (median 3/31) 3/22 St. Louis PHS, 3/30 Traverse SPM. Late south 5/9 Rice DAB, 5/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 5/15). Late north 5/28 Hubbard JJS, 5/30 St. Louis FKB, PHS (median 5/29). High count 4/29 St. Louis (**3,416** in Duluth harbor, with 202 Lessers and 3,917 unidentified scaup) PHS is second highest count for this species in Minnesota (5,400 were counted in the Duluth harbor 4/17/2002 by PHS).

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) — [52 South, 30 North] Early south away from overwintering areas (median 2/23) 3/2 Dakota BAF, PEJ, 3/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Olmsted LAV. Early north (median 3/16) 3/15 Itasca SC, 3/22 Otter Tail SPM, 3/29–30 in six counties. High count 4/22 St. Louis (1,975 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus bistrionicus*) — [2 South] Overwintering male at Dakota/Washington (Prescott/Point Douglas/Mississippi River) lingered until 4/5 BAF.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) — [1 South] — Only report 5/4 Goodhue (2 on Lake Pepin) Bly.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) — [1 South, 2 North] All reports: 4/6 St. Louis (near McQuade Rd.) FKB, 4/12 Mower (LeRoy W.T.P.) ph. JEM, ARW, JWH, 4/16 St. Louis (Interstate Island, Duluth) PHS, 5/24 Cook (2 at Paradise Beach) DFN.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) — [1 South, 2 North] All reports: **4/3** (record early north) to 5/5 St. Louis (Duluth harbor) KRE, PHS, 4/29 Meeker (Lake Ripley) DMF, 5/15 Todd BWF.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) — [3 North] All reports from Lake Superior: 3/22–5/9 Lake (max. 20 at Two Harbors) CVK, JWJL, 4/5 St. Louis (Duluth)

PHS, 5/5 St. Louis (Duluth) MSS, 5/9 Lake (3 at Castle Danger) JWJL, 5/23–31 Cook (max. 68 on 5/24) DFN, m.ob.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) — [52 South, 32 North] Early south (median 3/4) 3/12 Rice TFB, 3/16 Mower JEM. Early north (median 3/23) 3/22 Otter Tail SPM, 4/4 Cass BAW, Douglas JPE, St. Louis PHS. Late south 5/21 Big Stone BJU, 5/28 Dakota ADS (median 5/29). Late north 5/28 Marshall PHS, 5/31 Cook WCM, but also see summer report.

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) — [47 South, 27 North] Late south 4/30 Kandiyohi DMF, 5/10 Steele NFT (median 5/12). High count 4/8 St. Louis (1,374 in Duluth harbor) PHS.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*) — [1 South] One of the adult males wintering on the Mississippi River lingered until 3/4 **Wabasha** (Reads Landing) †BAF, m.ob.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) — [52 South, 28 North] See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/18) 3/15 Wadena PJB, 3/19 Cass BAW. High count 4/9 St. Louis (238 in Duluth harbor) PHS.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) — [50 South, 24 North] Late south 5/15 Steele DAB, 5/21 Hennepin RLW (median 5/25). High counts 3/1 Ramsey (810 on Mississippi River) BAF, 4/8 St. Louis (374 in Duluth harbor) PHS, 4/18 Cass (**1,400** on Sylvan Reservoir) MRN.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) — [42 South, 25 North] See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (away from Lake Superior) 4/3 Kanabec CAM, Otter Tail DST, 4/9 Cass BAW, Mille Lacs RBJ. High count 4/18 Ramsey (420 at Lake Phalen) LS. Late south 5/14 Yellow Medicine BJU, 5/19 Kandiyohi HHD, JJS (median 5/20).

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) —

[50 South, 21 North] Early south away from overwintering areas (median 3/10) 3/11 Brown BTS, 3/12 Chippewa BJU, Dakota PEJ, Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (median 4/4) 3/29 Itasca SC, EEO, 3/30 Cass BAW.

Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) — [15 South, 6 North] High counts 3/9 Stearns (16 near Holdingford) RPR, 3/7 Clay (9) CMB, 3/9 Marshall (7) MJJ, 5/23 Fillmore (6) ARW. All other north reports: 3/9 Kittson LW, 3/10 Norman HHD, 3/30 Otter Tail *vide* MJJ, 4/27 Polk (2 at Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) KRE, m.ob.

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) — [51 South, 19 North] Reported as far north as Polk, Wadena, Cass, Aitkin, and Pine.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) — [9 South, 28 North] Found throughout normal range, including Anoka RBW, SMC, Dakota (Miesville Ravine) m.ob., Fillmore m.ob., Wabasha RBW. High counts 5/22 Beltrami (6) LBF, 5/31 Koochiching (6) AXH.

Spruce Grouse (*Falcapennis canadensis*) — [2 North] All reports: 5/3–17 Lake (3 in 3 locations) JWJ, 5/15 Lake of the Woods (4 displaying males in separate areas and 1 female incubating 8 eggs under leaning cedar tree) MHK, 5/31 Lake SES.

Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) — [2 South, 9 North] High counts 4/1 Red Lake (25) SAS, 4/13 Marshall (15) MJJ, 5/30 Pennington (14) MJJ. Also reported from Aitkin, Norman, Pine, and Polk. Unusual south reports outside their typical range in Lac Qui Parle (2 locations) BJU, SWe, Swift CRM.

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) — [2 South, 7 North] Presumed releases seen in Lac Qui Parle (max. 29, Plover Prairie) BJU, Swift CRM. All north reports: Clay (high count of 56 at Felton Prairie on 5/16) RHO, Marshall, Norman (max. 20, Twin Valley Prairie S.N.A.) KRE,

Otter Tail, Polk (max. 50, Glacial Ridge N.W.R), Wilkin (max. 30, Rothsay W.M.A.).

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) — [43 South, 19 North] Reported as far north as Kittson, Red Lake, Hubbard, Cass, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, Carlton. Peak counts of 70 in Sherburne DPG and 60 in Brown BTS.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) — [2 North] All Lake Superior reports from St. Louis: 4/29–5/29+ at Park Point, Duluth (max. 20 on 5/6 and 8 on 5/25) PHS, KRE. Only inland report **4/20 Douglas/Todd** (L. Osakis) †JPE.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) — [1 South, 1 North] Only Lake Superior reports: 5/13 St. Louis (juvenile at Park Point, Duluth) MLH, 5/27–29 St. Louis (adult in alternate plumage at Park Point, Duluth.) CMB, †PHS. Only inland report: **4/11** (record early) **Olmsted** (adult in alternate plumage, East Landfill Reservoir) ph. †RLE, JJS, JWH, RBJ.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) — [41 South, 29 North] Early south (median 3/27) 3/28 Goodhue BRL, 3/29 Waseca RMD, JWH. Early north (median 4/1) 4/9 Kanabec CAM, 4/12 Morrison MDN, HHD. High counts 4/29 St. Louis (129 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 4/17 Hennepin (122) DWK.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) — [51 South, 29 North] Early south (median 3/9) 3/12 Brown BTS, 3/15 Ramsey BAF. Early north (median 3/28) 3/5 St. Louis NAJ, 3/14 Itasca EEO, 3/21 Cass BAW, St. Louis SLF.

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) — [40 South, 28 North] Early south (median 3/25) 4/1 Dakota JPM, 4/6 in four counties. Early north (median 4/9) 4/13 Lake JWJ, 4/16 Otter Tail DST, St. Louis (335 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS. High counts 5/6 St. Louis (902 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 4/20 Hennepin (438 on Lake Nokomis and Diamond Lake) DWK. Late south

5/14 (median) Yellow Medicine BJU, 5/20 Sherburne ASC. Late north 5/21 St. Louis PHS, 5/30 Cook WCM (median 6/3), but also see summer report.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps griseigena*) — [31 South, 20 North] Early south (median 4/2) 4/5 Anoka MCA, Dakota/Goodhue BAF, RBW, Le Sueur RBJ, DAC, 4/6 Hennepin HCT. Early north 4/7 (median) St. Louis PHS, 4/13 Lake JWL. High counts 4/22 St. Louis (**500** on Colby Lake, Hoyt Lakes) ALE, 4/22 St. Louis (393 at Park Point, Duluth) PHS.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) — [22 South, 12 North] Early south (median 4/10) 4/7 Mower JEM, 4/12 Hennepin DCZ. Early north (median 4/22) 4/16 Marshall GT, 4/26 Pennington JMJ. Notable Northeast and North-central reports: 5/7 St. Louis (mouth of Lester River, Duluth) UK, 5/14 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) †PHS, SLF, 5/22 Aitkin MCA.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) — [22 South, 9 North] Early south (median 4/11) 4/7 Blue Earth ARW, 4/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (median 4/21) 4/19 Douglas JPE. High count 5/29 Douglas (200 on Lake Osakis) MRN.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) — [2 South, 2 North] All reports: 4/23–5/4 Douglas/Todd (max. **4** on Lake Osakis) MJB, KRE *et al.*, 5/5 Big Stone (Thielke Lake) KRE, 5/17 **Blue Earth** (2 at Indian Lake W.M.A.) ChH, †RMD.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) — [48 South, 24 North] Early south (median 3/27) 3/21 Faribault WAF, 3/27 Blue Earth ChH. Early north (median 4/8) 4/4 Douglas JPE, 4/7 Marshall GT. High counts 4/13 Goodhue (800) DPG, 4/20 Hennepin (350) PEB. Unusual location: 5/13 Cook DMB.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) — [51 South, 28 North] Early south (median 3/18) 3/13 Dakota PEJ, Rice TFB, 3/15 Ramsey BAF. Early

north (median 3/30) 4/4 St. Louis SLF, 4/8 Otter Tail DST. High counts 5/2 Benton (**5,000** at Little Rock Lake) MRN, 4/30 Otter Tail (594 at Sand Lake) FKB.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) — [20 South, 16 North] Early south (median 4/19) 4/16 Faribault WAF, Hennepin DDo, 4/22 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (median 4/18) 4/18 St. Louis LAW, 4/24 Morrison RBJ, DAC.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) — [5 South, 3 North] All south reports: 5/6 Lac Qui Parle (Perry Twp.) BJU, 5/14–15 Sibley (2 at Sand Lake) WCM, 5/15 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 5/16 Big Stone ASC, 5/28 Meeker (4 in Danielson Twp.) DMF, 5/31 Houston DPG. All north reports: 5/26 Clearwater JMJ, 5/30 Todd (Little Lake Osakis) *fide* RPR, 5/31 Cass (Big Rice Lake) BAW.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) — [51 South, 29 North] See winter report for overwintering and early south migrants. Early north (median 3/20) 3/12 Otter Tail SPM, 3/25 Cass DAY, Morrison HHD. High count 4/9 Meeker (80 at Pidgeon Lake) DPG.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) — [47 South, 16 North] Early south 3/22 (median) Steele NFT, 3/25 Hennepin PEJ. Early north (median 3/31) 4/4 Cass BAW, 4/5 Otter Tail DST. High counts 5/9 Lac Qui Parle (146 at Marsh Lake) BJU, 4/28 Big Stone (83 at Thielke Lake) BJU. Unusual northeast report 5/29 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) DAY.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) — [7 South, 1 North] All south reports: 4/23 Big Stone (Peterson Lake) SVa, 4/24 Stevens (Scott Twp.) DBM, 4/27 Hennepin (Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) BBB, m.ob., 5/8 Lac Qui Parle (Hantho Twp.) BJU, 5/9 Brown (New Ulm) BRB, 5/10 Meeker (Pidgeon Lake) DMF, 5/15 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU. Only north report: 5/28 **Hubbard** (channel off Fish Hook L.) MAW.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) — [1 South] Only report 5/3–5 Lac Qui Parle (adult in Walter Twp.) BJU.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) — [7 South, 1 North] Statewide total of 38 birds (28 last spring). All south reports: 4/16 Lac Qui Parle (4 in Boyd) FAE, 4/17 Olmsted (South Landfill Reservoir) JWH, PWP, 5/2 Lac Qui Parle (2 in Hantho Twp.) BJU, 5/8 Meeker (Greenleaf Twp.) DMF, 5/9 Lac Qui Parle (6 at Marsh Lake) BJU, 5/10 Meeker (2 in Ellsworth Twp.) DMF, 5/12 Lyon (3) †RJS, 5/15 Lac Qui Parle (15 in Arena Twp.) BJU, 5/19 Pipestone (Ruthton W.T.P.) BJU, 5/22 Chippewa (near Clara City) DMF, 5/26 Kandiyohi JoS. Only north report: 5/16 **Clearwater** DBM.

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) — [38 South, 21 North] Early south (median 4/21) 4/22 Mower JEM, Rice TFB, 4/23 Anoka AXH, Meeker DMF, Olmsted JWH. Early north (median 5/3) 4/24 Mille Lacs ASc *et al.*, 4/28 Traverse BJU.

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) — [17 South, 5 North] Early south (median 3/29) 4/5 Hennepin CMB, 4/14 Fillmore JWH. All north reports: 4/20 Kanabec CAM, 4/29+ Otter Tail (12) DST, 5/13 Clay RHO, 5/24 Hubbard JEB, 5/30 Douglas JPE.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) — No reports.

WHITE-FACED IBIS (*Plegadis chibi*) — [1 South] Only report: 5/24–25 **Steele** (Straight River Marsh) AEB, ph. LA, ph. RLE, NFT.

IBIS sp. (*Plegadis* sp.) — [3 South] All reports: 4/29 Meeker (2 in Darwin Twp.) †DMF, 5/15 Lyon (5 at Black Rush Lake) ph. †RJS, 5/17 Lac Qui Parle (2 at Big Stone N.W.R.) †JCh, 5/27 Lac Qui Parle (near Madison) †PHS.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) — [47 South, 30 North] Early south (median 3/10) 3/15 Rice DAB, 3/18 Blue Earth

ChH, 3/24–27 in 12 counties. Early north (median 3/30) 3/26 Cass BAW, Clearwater KLa, St. Louis NAJ, 3/28 Crow Wing JSB.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) — [32 South, 23 North] Early south (median 3/27) 3/29 Scott DPG, 4/3 Hennepin SMC, JCC. Early north (median 4/1) 3/30 Cass BAW, 4/12 Otter Tail SPM.

WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*) — [1 South] Second state record photographed 5/4 **Mower** (near Austin) BPL.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) — [1 South] Only report: 5/3 **Hennepin** (adult at Bass Ponds) †MAO.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) — [48 South, 30 North] High counts 4/13 Wabasha (100 at Lake Pepin) DPG, 3/1 Ramsey (71 in St. Paul) BAF.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) — [49 South, 31 North] Early south (median 3/4) 3/1 Mower JEM, Rock DBM, 3/7 Wabasha KCR. Early north (median 3/9) 3/10 Polk NGE, 3/13 Polk KLa. High count 4/4 Douglas (19) JPE.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) — [38 South, 20 North] Early north (median 3/7) 3/5 Cass MRN, 3/9 Marshall HHD, JMJ, Pennington JMJ, 3/14 Mille Lacs NSc. Late south 5/14 Sibley WCM, 5/16 Hennepin SWe, 5/26 Wright HHD.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) — [41 South, 21 North] Early north (median 3/19) 3/15 Mille Lacs NSc, ASc, 3/20 Hubbard MAW, 3/22 Crow Wing JSB.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) — [6 South, 7 North] North reports from Aitkin, Beltrami, Crow Wing, Douglas, Hubbard, Mille Lacs, and Morrison. Late south 3/29 Ramsey REH, 4/13 Faribault DBM (median 4/20).

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) — [19 South, 10 North] Early north (median 3/14) 3/23 Hubbard JMJ. All other



Ruffed Grouse, 22 April 2008, Superior National Forest, Cook County. Photo by David Brislane.

north reports: Aitkin, Becker, Cass, Crow Wing, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Morrison, and Otter Tail.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) — [35 South, 27 North] Early south (median 4/7) 4/13 Meeker DMF, 4/15 Chisago MHe. Early north (median 4/9) 4/17 St. Louis HWi, NAJ, 4/19 Aitkin KCR. High count 5/4 St. Louis (125 from West Skyline Drive, Duluth) PHS.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) — [14 South, 3 North] Early south (median 4/3) 3/30 Dakota ADS, Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/12 Washington LS, 4/13 Dakota CMB. All north reports: 4/25 Clay RHO, 4/28 Traverse BJU, 5/4 Otter Tail SPM.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) — [51 South, 31 North] Reported from 82 counties statewide.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) — [2 South, 1 North] All documented reports: 5/3 **Sherburne/Stearns** (juvenile) †MCA, 5/22 Marshall (adult at Agassiz N.W.R.) †PHS.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) — [28 South, 22 North] Late south 4/26 Big Stone BJU, 4/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU, SWE, 5/10 (median) Steele NFT. Late north 5/17 Lake JWL, Marshall MJJ, 5/24 St. Louis JLO, DWK (median 5/22).

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) — [7 South, 7 North] All north reports: 3/10 Clay HHD and Polk NGE, 3/17 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) GT, 3/22 Kanabec †CAM, 3/23 Beltrami DPJ, 4/3 St. Louis MLH, 4/5 Clay MJJ, 4/9 Clay MEB, 4/22 Cass MRN, 5/9 Polk NGE. All south reports: 3/1 Rock (Blue Mounds S.P.) DBM, 3/7 Wabasha KCR, 3/13 Meeker DMF, 3/24 Chippewa

MJB, 3/29 Rice TFB, 4/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/5 Brown (Lake Hanska) BTS.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) — [52 South, 32 North] Early north (median 3/7) 3/1 Mille Lacs ASc, 3/2 Pine MJB. High counts 3/30 Lac Qui Parle (**54**) BJU and Sibley (**32**) WCM.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) — [15 South, 20 North] Early north (median 3/15) **3/10** St. Louis FKB, 3/14 Kittson LW. Late south 5/2 Sherburne JJS, 5/7 Dakota JPM (median 5/20).

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) — [27 South, 8 North] Observed in all regions of the state.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) — [1 South] One report: 4/30 Chippewa (east of Clara City, dark axillaries seen) DMF.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) — [1 South, 5 North] First reported north 5/5 Aitkin (2, McGregor Marsh) KRE. Only south report: 5/17 **Anoka** (2, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) JWH.

Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) — [30 South, 10 North] Early south (median 4/15) 4/19 Hennepin BAF and Murray DBM, 4/23 Hennepin DAC. Early north (median 5/5) 5/4 Morrison MJB.

Sora (*Porzana carolina*) — [41 South, 18 North] Early south (median 4/14) 4/19 Meeker DMF, 4/21 Hennepin RBJ. Early north (median 4/23) 4/23 Douglas and Todd MJB, 4/24 Morrison RBJ, DAC.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) — [6 South, 1 North] All south reports: 5/8 Nicollet (Swan Lake W.M.A.) RMD, 5/11–15 Lac Qui Parle (Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU, 5/16 Big Stone ASc, 5/21 Blue Earth (2, Indian Lake W.M.A.) ChH, 5/28 Meeker (Belle Lake) DMF, 5/31 Houston DPG. Only north report: 5/21–23 Otter Tail (Underwood) PEI, DST.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) —

[52 South, 25 North] Early north (median 3/28) 3/17 Otter Tail (7, overwintered in Fergus Falls) DST, 3/21 Cass (Crow Wing River) BAW and St. Louis (2, Virginia) SLF. High count 4/27 Hennepin (3,300 on Long Meadow Lake) BAF.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) — [33 South, 28 North] Early south (median 3/14) 3/2 Swift BJU, 3/15 Sherburne MJB. Early north (median 3/22) 3/18 Otter Tail ARo, 3/20 Mille Lacs ASc, NSc, Morrison *vide* MRN. High count 4/15 Polk (2,000) NGE. First county records: 3/27 **Faribault** (3) WAF, 4/4 **Renville** RBW.

[WHOOPIING CRANE] (*Grus americana*) — [1 South] Two banded birds seen 3/14 Houston (Houston Twp.) †KAK.

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) — [8 South, 7 North] Early south (median 5/1) 5/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/3 Mower (Le Roy W.T.P.) JWH. Early north 5/3 Douglas JPE, 5/16 Wilkin HHD. High count 5/11 Lac Qui Parle (19, Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU. Late south 5/26 Nicollet (5) DWK and Rice TFB, 5/27 Lac Qui Parle (8) PHS (median 6/6). See summer report for late north.

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) — [8 South, 4 North] Early south (median 4/18) 4/5 Mower HHD, 4/20 Lincoln (8) PEJ, DFN. Early north 5/9 Marshall *vide* JMJ. High count 5/13 Lac Qui Parle (33, Riverside Twp.) BJU. Late south 5/22 Lac Qui Parle (18, Lake Shore Twp.) BJU, 5/26 Rice TFB (median 6/1). Late north 5/28 Polk *vide* JMJ, 5/29 St. Louis PHS.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) — [16 South, 9 North] Early south (median 4/21) 4/26 Hennepin (2, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) BAF, CMB and Lac Qui Parle SWe. Early north (median 5/7) 5/15 Itasca (2) EEO. High count 5/20 Lac Qui Parle (16) PHS. See summer report for late south and north.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodius*) —



Virginia Rail, 28 May 2008, Cass County. Photo by Ben Wieland.

[1 South, 2 North] All reports: 4/28 Brown (2, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) ph. BTS, 5/4–17 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) †PHS, MSS, WCM, m.ob., 5/8 Polk (Crookston W.T.P.) ph. †DLT.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) — [52 South, 29 North] Early south (median 3/1) 3/12 Mower JEM, 3/13 Anoka CKB, Rice (3) DAB, and Steele (2) NFT. Early north (median 3/17) 3/20 Mille Lacs (4) NSc, 3/28 Mille Lacs ASc. High count 4/14 Mower (109) JEM.

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*) — [1 South] One bird found

5/11 **Kandiyohi** (west of Willmar) †BWF.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) — [9 South, 3 North] Early south (median 4/20) 4/19–20 Hennepin (7, Bass Ponds, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) JMu, 4/27 Lac Qui Parle (Salt Lake) BJU, SWE. Only three north reports: 4/24 Wilkin (2, Manston Marsh W.M.A.) DBM, 5/4 Otter Tail SPM, 5/19 Clay (4, Sabin W.T.P.) WCM. High count 5/26 Big Stone (9) PHS.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) — [39 South, 27 North] Early south (median 4/20) 4/23 Meeker DMF, 4/26 Dakota PEJ, Hennepin DWK, Rice TFB, and Scott

CMB. Early north (median 4/29) 4/27 Polk LS, 4/30 Mille Lacs ASC. High count 5/18 Sibley (17, Gaylord W.T.P.) JCC.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) — [34 South, 18 North] Early south (median 4/19) **4/8** Mower JEM, 4/20 Nicollet RMD. Early north (median 4/30) 4/29 Lake JWJ, 4/30 Aitkin KCR. All counts ≤4. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) — [38 South, 23 North] Early south (median 3/26) 3/29 Nobles HHD, KRE, 3/30 Blue Earth JEB, RMD, JWH and Wright ABL. Early north (median 4/8) 3/29 Wilkin SPM, 4/4 Cass (3) BAW and Douglas JPE. Record high northbound count 5/3 Aitkin (**470**, most of them in the Cedarbrook area just west of Aitkin) KCR. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) — [15 South, 10 North] Early south (median 4/24) 4/27 Dakota (2) JPM and Lac Qui Parle BJU, SWe, 4/28 Dakota JWH. Early north 5/1 (median) Itasca EEO. First county record: 5/4 **Todd** (13, Lake Osakis) KRE, LS. High count 5/4 Lac Qui Parle (17) PCC. Late south 5/27 Mower ARW and Rice TFB, 5/28 Mower JEM. Late north 5/29 St. Louis (2) PHS, 5/31 St. Louis LS (median 6/1).

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) — [42 South, 24 North] Early south (median 3/28) 3/30 Dakota ADS, 3/31 McLeod (6) DMF. Early north (median 4/9) 4/4 Douglas JPE, 4/9 Mille Lacs RBJ. High count 5/4 Lac Qui Parle (279) PCC. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) — [12 South, 6 North] Early south (median 4/26) 5/4 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU, 5/5 Stearns (Paynesville Twp.) PCC. Early north 5/6 Clay (4, Felton Prairie) RHO, 5/9 Polk NGE. High count 5/10 Clay (6, Blue-stem Prairie S.N.A.) RHO.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) — [3

North] All reports from Cook, Lake, and St. Louis beginning 5/17 St. Louis (2, Park Point, Duluth) PHS. Last reported 5/27 St. Louis CMB. High count of 78 found 5/24 Cook (Paradise Beach) DFN.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius americanus*) — [1 South] First county record 5/17 **Big Stone** ph. DPG.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) — [11 South, 8 North] Statewide total of 132 was well below last spring's 205 individuals, but birds were better spread across 19 counties (13 in 2007). Early south (median 4/21) 4/20 Lincoln PEJ, DFN, 4/23 Faribault WAF. Early north 5/10 Otter Tail (8) DST, 5/15 **Itasca** ph. EEO. High count 5/18 Becker (22) PBB. Late south 5/27 Mower (2, Le Roy W.T.P.) ARW, JEM, 5/28 Brown (Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS (median 5/31). Late north 5/28 Marshall (2, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) — [15 South, 13 North] Early south (median 4/13) 4/12 Dakota (180th St. marsh) JLO, BAF, JPM, 4/15 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (median 4/13) 4/15 Polk NGE. High count 5/21 Marshall (24, Agassiz N.W.R.) LBF. First county record 5/15 **Itasca** ph. EEO.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) — [11 South, 5 North] Early south (median 5/14) 5/8 Lac Qui Parle (5) BJU, 5/10 Meeker (2) DMF. Early north 5/6 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 5/14 Cass (Gull Island) BAW. High count 5/27 St. Louis (30, Park Point) CMB. Late south 5/30 Brown (Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS (median 6/1). See summer report for late migrants north.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) — [1 North] All reports from St. Louis: 5/16 (2, Interstate Island W.M.A.) PHS, 5/29–31 (3, Park Point, Duluth) PHS, m.ob.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) — [8 South, 5 North] Early south (median 5/6) 4/26 Lac Qui Parle SWe, 5/4 Lac Qui Parle PCC.



Ruddy Turnstone, 27 May 2008, Pelican Island, Leech Lake, Cass County. Photo by Ben Wieland.

Early north (median 5/11) 5/6 St. Louis (3, Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 5/13 St. Louis (24, Park Point, Duluth) PHS. High count 5/30 St. Louis (83, Park Point, Duluth) PHS. Late south 5/26 Nicollet DWK, 5/28 Brown (4, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS (median 6/1). See summer report for late migrants north.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) — [28 South, 11 North] Early south (median 4/17) 4/6 Rock (8, Hills W.T.P.) DBM, 4/19 Meeker DMF. Early north 5/16 Clay (3) RHO and Wilkin HHD. High count 5/27 Lac Qui Parle (**905**) PHS. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) — [33 South, 18 North] Early south (median 4/17) 4/6 Rock LS, 4/13 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/6) 5/7 Kittson LW, 5/8

Mille Lacs ASc. High count 5/20 Lac Qui Parle (196) PHS. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) — [18 South, 7 North] Early south (median 4/28) 5/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/3 Meeker DMF. Early north 5/19 Clay (2) WCM. High count 5/27 Lac Qui Parle (484) PHS. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) — [22 South, 9 North] Early south (median 4/6) 4/6 Rock LS, 4/13 Mower JWH. Early north 4/30 Aitkin KCR, 5/8 Mille Lacs ASc. High count 5/8 St. Louis (213, 27th Ave. West and Hearing Island, Duluth) PHS. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melano-*

tos) — [30 South, 12 North] Early south (median 4/1) 4/6 Mower JEM and Rock LS, 4/7 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 4/19) 4/4 Douglas JPE, 4/17 Mille Lacs NSc. High count 5/4 Lac Qui Parle (157) PCC. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) — [24 South, 15 North] Early south (median 4/19) 4/17 Dakota (5, Lake Byllesby) JLO, 4/18 Dakota (2, Lake Byllesby) CMB. Early north (median 5/10) 4/27 Lake (Two Harbors golf course) JWJ and Polk (2, Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) LS, ALD, KRE. High count 5/27 Lac Qui Parle (137) PHS. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*) — [10 South, 3 North] Early south 5/3 (median) Meeker (4) DMF. All north reports: 5/10 Otter Tail DST, 5/25 Marshall (2, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, 5/27 Traverse (4) PHS. Late south 5/31 Lac Qui Parle BJU and Watonwan RBJ. No significant counts.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) — No documented reports. This species is casual in spring.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) — [23 South, 8 North] Early south (median 4/30) 4/27 Steele (2) FVS, 4/28 Lac Qui Parle (4) BJU. Early north 4/30 Otter Tail FKB, 5/13 Cass (3, Walker W.T.P.) BAW. High count 5/15 Lac Qui Parle (37) BJU. Late south 5/27 Lac Qui Parle (6) PHS, 5/30 Lac Qui Parle (6) BJU. Late north 5/23 Aitkin (2) PEJ, 5/25 Marshall PHS and St. Louis DAB. Also see summer report for late migrants south.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) — [10 South, 4 North] Early south (median 4/24) 4/5 Steele (Spindler's Pond) JWH, 4/23 Lac Qui Parle (13) BJU. All north reports: 5/10 Otter Tail (12) DST, 5/13 St. Louis (3, Grassy Point, Duluth) PHS, 5/16 Aitkin ASC and Clay (8, Sabin W.T.P.) RHO. High count 5/11 Lac Qui Parle (20, Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU. Late south 5/17 Mower JEM, Stearns MJB (me-

dian 5/19).

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) — [33 South, 25 North] Early south (median 3/22) 3/15 Le Sueur and Sibley REH, 3/28 Hennepin CMB and Waseca DAB. Early north (median 3/31) 4/8 Crow Wing SMA, 4/16 Clearwater KLa, Mille Lacs ASC, and Polk NGE. High count 4/19 Anoka (45, Carlos Avery W.M.A.) MHe.

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) — [18 South, 17 North] Early south (median 3/13) 3/25 Rice TFB, 3/26 Fillmore NBO. Early north (median 3/26) 3/30 Carlton LAW, 4/4 Douglas JPE. High count 5/14 Lake (7, heard along USFWS survey route near Finland) JWJ.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) — [29 South, 22 North] Early south (median 4/23) 4/19 Dakota (Lake Byllesby) m.ob., 4/22 Brown (5, Sleepy Eye W.T.P.) BTS and Lac Qui Parle (12, Mount Wickham) BJU. Early north (median 5/1) 4/24 Wilkin DBM, 4/27 Douglas JPE. High count 5/19 Clay (175) WCM.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) — [15 South, 8 North] Early south (median 5/12) 5/11 Renville (Fairfax W.T.P.) JCC, 5/14 Yellow Medicine (2, Miller Lake) BJU. Early north 5/14 Clay RBJ, DAC, 5/15 Norman HHD. High count 5/15 Lac Qui Parle (59, Salt Lake) BJU. Late south 5/31 Lac Qui Parle (Perry Twp.) BJU (median 5/28). Late north 5/27 Traverse (12) PHS. Also see summer report for late migrants south.

Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) — [38 South, 24 North] Early south (median 4/3) 3/29 Waseca RMD, 3/30 Hennepin DWK. Early north (median 4/13) 4/17 St. Louis (3) PHS, 4/18 Cass (5) MRN. Record high spring migration count at Park Point in St. Louis when KRE and PHS found **4,153**, and KCR tallied **7,782** later that same day. Late south 5/19 Hennepin (14, Purgatory Creek, Eden Prairie) CMB and Lincoln (3) BJU, 5/21 Rice TFB (median 6/8). See summer re-



Wilson's Phalarope, 14 May 2008, Barnesville, Clay County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

port for late migrants north (median 6/10).

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) — [1 South, 1 North] First county record 4/26 **Chippewa/Lac Qui Parle** (Lac Qui Parle dam) LGa, †RBW, BJU. Also observed 5/6 St. Louis (adult in flock of 625 Bonaparte's Gulls, Park Point, Duluth) PHS, KRE.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) — [28 South, 16 North] Early south (median 3/24) 3/25 Dakota ADS, 3/29 Nobles (9, Lake Okabeena) m.ob. and Swift (2) JCC. Early north (median 4/6) 4/14 Marshall (Agassiz N.W.R.) GT, 4/16 Polk NGE. One Northeast report 5/29 St. Louis (Duluth Harbor) †PHS. High count 5/11 Red Lake (200) JMJ.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) — [51 South, 29 North] See winter report for early south. Early north (median 3/12) 3/16 St. Louis (5) PHS and Wadena PJB, 3/17 St. Louis (9) PHS. High count 5/8 St. Louis (**20,000**, Interstate Island W.M.A., Duluth) PHS.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) — [35 South, 17 North] High count 4/9 St. Louis (**3,265**, Silver Lake and Bailey's Lake, Virginia) SLF. Last reported south 5/29 Hennepin (Purgatory Creek) DWK.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) — [2 North] All reports: 3/2 St. Louis (first-cycle, Duluth harbor) PHS, 4/5 St. Louis (first-cycle, Minnesota side of Superi-

or Entry) PHS, 4/6 St. Louis (adult, Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 5/3 St. Louis (second-cycle, Minnesota side of Superior Entry) PHS, 5/4 St. Louis (first-cycle, Park Point, Duluth) PHS, 5/13 **Cass** (Walker City Park) ph. BAW.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) — [1 North] All reports from St. Louis: 3/2 (second- or third-cycle, Duluth harbor) †PHS, 4/14–17 (Bailey's Lake, Virginia) DBF, †SLF.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) — [1 South] Only report: 3/27 **Olmsted** (adult at South Landfill Reservoir) ph. †RLE.

SLATY-BACKED GULL (*Larus schistisagus*) — [1 North] An adult overwintered in Duluth/Superior, WI and was last seen in Minnesota 3/15 St. Louis †PHS. Fourth state record.

Dark-mantled gull sp. — [1 North] Two intriguing reports of pink-legged, dark-mantled gulls in St. Louis (Bailey's Lake, Virginia): 3/29 (adult), 4/15–19 (third-cycle) ph. †SLF, DBF. The adult resembled the Slaty-backed Gull seen earlier in the month at Duluth and the third-cycle bird showed characteristics of Lesser Black-backed Gull, but neither bird could be conclusively identified.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) — [1 South, 2 North] Several birds observed in St. Louis, beginning 3/2 (12, eight first-cycle, one third-cycle, and three adult, Duluth harbor) PHS; last reported 5/3 (Minnesota side of Superior Entry) PHS. Observed in St. Louis away from Lake Superior 4/14–15 (Bailey's Lake, Virginia) DBF, NAJ. Also observed 3/28 Lake (Knife River) DMF. Only south report: 4/23 **Pope** DBM.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) — [1 North] All reports from St. Louis: 3/16–4/12 (one second-cycle, Duluth) †PHS, 4/8–10 (adult on Silver Lake, Virginia) DBF, †SLF, 5/4 St. Louis (another

second-cycle at Interstate Island) †PHS.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) — [23 South, 17 North] Early south (median 4/24) 4/21 Sherburne ASC, 4/22 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/3) 4/30 Cass DAY. High count 5/18 Hennepin (**313**, Purgatory Creek, Eden Prairie) CMB. See summer report for late migrants south and north.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) — [37 South, 14 North] Early south (median 4/30) 4/30 Chippewa DMF, 5/1 Brown BTS. Early north (median 5/8) 5/13 St. Louis PHS. High count 5/15 Lac Qui Parle (83, Big Stone N.W.R.) BJU.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) — [15 South, 9 North] Early south (median 4/25) 4/26 Meeker DMF, Big Stone SWe. Early north 5/3 Douglas JPE, 5/8 Itasca EEO and St. Louis PHS. High count 5/17 St. Louis (82, Interstate Island W.M.A.) PHS. Late south 5/21 Blue Earth ChH, Ramsey (3) BRL, and Rice TFB, 5/31 Dakota RLW (median 6/1), but see summer report.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) — [38 South, 19 North] Record early south **3/25** Mower JEM, while 4/11 Olmsted (East Landfill Reservoir) JWH was more typical (median 4/10). Early north (median 4/18) 4/19 Douglas JPE. High count 5/12 Cass (40, Leech Lake) DAY.

Jaeger sp. — [1 North] Two unidentified jaegers observed 5/24 St. Louis †DWK *et al.*

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) — [50 South, 29 North] Observed throughout the state.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) — [21 South, 2 North] Two first county records: 4/4 **Faribault** (Minnesota Lake) †ARW, 5/9 **St. Louis** (Duluth) ph. KRE. Observed at previously reported locations in Big Stone, Blue Earth (Mapleton), Brown (Comfrey), Chippewa (Milan), Cottonwood (Comfrey), Dodge (Clare-



Thayer's Gull, 13 May 2008, Walker, Cass County. Photo by Ben Wieland.

mont and West Concord), Fillmore (Spring Valley), Kandiyohi (Prinsburg), Lac Qui Parle (Madison), Martin (Trimont), Meeker (Cosmos), Mower (Adams), Pope (Lowry), Renville (Renville), Sibley (Gaylord and Winthrop), Stearns (Luxemborg and Sauk Centre), Swift (Murdock), Traverse (Wheaton), Wabasha (Plainview), Watonwan (Madelia), Yellow Medicine (Clarkfield).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*) — [1 North] One bird present and photographed 4/16–22 Cook at a private residence near Lutsen *vide* JWL. This is the third record of this Accidental species in this county within the last six years.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) — [52 South, 32 North] Observed throughout

the state.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) — [17 South, 1 North] Early south (median 5/16) 5/12 Carver (Rapids Lake Unit, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) JCy and Swift (Monson Lake S.P.) BJU, 5/14 Sibley RMD. Only north report 5/30 Cass BAW.

Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) — [20 South, 4 North] Early south (median 5/9) 5/10 Mower JEM, 5/12 Rice DAT. All north reports: 5/11 Otter Tail DST, 5/28 Mille Lacs ASC, 5/29 Cass BAW, 5/30 Douglas JPE.

Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) — [9 South, 2 North] Reported south from Blue Earth, Fillmore, Hennepin, Houston,

Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Olmsted, Rice, and Sibley. Only two north reports: 5/16 Clearwater DBM, 5/30 Douglas JPE.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) — [37 South, 18 North] Observed in all regions of the state.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) — [1 South, 5 North] Only south report 3/1 Rock (Touch the Sky Prairie) DBM. Reported north 3/1 St. Louis (Duluth) CCB, 3/6 Polk AdR, 3/15–22 Aitkin WEN, WMS, m.ob., 4/13 Kittson GMM, 4/19 Douglas (Osakis W.T.P.) JPE.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) — [2 North] Three reports: 3/2 Cass DAB, JEB, JWH, 3/5 St. Louis *vide* JWJ, 4/13 St. Louis (Sax-Zim) JMa.

BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*) — [1 North] One bird present 5/22+ **Clay** (Moorhead, observed sitting on mound of dirt beside hole) ph. DRE, CMN, ph. †PHS, m.ob.

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) — [27 South, 16 North] Observed in all regions of the state as far northwest as Clearwater and as far southwest as Brown. High count 5/15 Sibley (**10** along Minnesota River) WCM.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) — [3 North] Reported from Aitkin, Lake, and St. Louis.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) — [6 South, 4 North] Reported from Itasca, Lake, Pine and St. Louis in the north. Reported south from Cottonwood, Faribault, Lac Qui Parle, and Nobles, as well as two interesting late May reports 5/17–21 Blue Earth ChH, RMD, 5/23 Hennepin SRG, m.ob.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) — [6 South, 12 North] Reported from Blue Earth, Fillmore, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Pipestone, and Renville in the south and Aitkin, Cass, Cook, Douglas, Kittson, Lake, Marshall, Mille Lacs, Otter Tail, Polk (three nests, AXH), and Todd in the north.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) — [1 North] One bird present in a residential backyard south of McGregor 3/1–12 KCR.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) — [3 South, 9 North] All south reports: 3/3 Rice DAB, 3/6–19 Rice TFB, 3/8 Anoka (Carlos Avery W.M.A.) DWK, 5/17 Sherburne (Ann Lake Campground) DDO. Reported north from Cass, Clearwater, Cook, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Koochiching, Lake, Polk, and St. Louis.

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) — [29 South, 21 North] Early south (median 4/30) 5/12 Hennepin RLW, 5/13 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north 5/11 Wadena PJB, 5/16 Mille Lacs Asc. High count 5/31 Koochiching (35) AXH.

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) — [12 South, 5 North] Early south 5/4 Carver (Laketown Twp.) WCM, 5/6 Sherburne (2) PLJ. North reports from Aitkin, Cass, Cook, Itasca, and Lake of the Woods, beginning 5/7 Aitkin KCR.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) — [45 South, 20 North] Early south (median 4/21) 4/16 Rice (Faribault) DAB, 4/20 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 4/30) 5/4 Otter Tail SPM, 5/6 Beltrami KLa. High count 5/3 Goodhue (**200**) BNW.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) — [33 South, 27 North] Early south (median 5/4) 5/1 Blue Earth ChH, 5/2 Fillmore NBO and Rice (2) DAT. Early north (median 5/7) 5/6 Hubbard MAW, 5/8 Itasca BLu and Otter Tail DST.

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) — [46 South, 29 North] Reported south throughout the season. Early north report 3/1 St. Louis (St. Louis River, Duluth) MFu, then none until 3/29 Wadena PJB (median 3/28).

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) — [29 South, 15 North] Early south migrants difficult to distinguish from overwintering birds. South re-

ports 3/1 Mower JEM and 3/8–4/10 Anoka (Cedar Creek S.N.A.) m.ob. probably refer to overwintering individuals; 4/22 Sherburne PLJ and 5/5 Wabasha JWH probably refer to early migrants. Early north (median 4/25) 5/5 Aitkin KCR, 5/14 Clay RHO. Also notable 5/24 Cook ph. LAN, 5/29 Itasca EEO.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) — [47 South, 24 North] Observed in all regions of the state as far northeast as St. Louis.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) — [40 South, 31 North] South report 3/4 Lac Qui Parle BJU probably refers to overwintering bird. Early south (median 3/28) 3/7 Wabasha KCR, 3/21 Mower JEM. Early north (median 4/5) 4/8 Mille Lacs ASc and St. Louis SZi, 4/9 Kanabec CAM and Mille Lacs RBJ. High counts 5/3 Goodhue (6) BNW, 5/31 Koochiching (6) AXH.

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) — [51 South, 32 North] Observed throughout the state.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) — [46 South, 30 North] Found statewide.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*) — [4 North] Reported from Aitkin, Itasca, Lake of the Woods, and St. Louis.

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) — [7 North] Reported from Aitkin, Cass, Cook, Lake, Lake of the Woods, **Mille Lacs** (Vineland Rd. near Hwy 169), and St. Louis.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) — [50 South, 32 North] Reported south throughout the season. Early north (median 3/26) 4/4 Douglas JPE. High count 4/24 St. Louis (25) TPW.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) — [38 South, 28 North] Observed in all regions of the state as far southwest as

Murray.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) — [23 South, 15 North] Early south (median 5/7) 5/1 Olmsted JWH, 5/6 Rice TFB, 5/8 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Mower JEM, 5/9 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/14) 5/17 Otter Tail DST, 5/19 Clay (2, Felton Prairie & Winnipeg junction) WCM. High count 5/31 Koochiching (5) AXH. See summer report for late south dates.

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) — [37 South, 15 North] Early south (median 5/6) 5/1 Lac Qui Parle (2) BJU, 5/3 Meeker DMF, Sherburne MCA, MJB. Early north (median 5/12) 5/13 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/15 Cass DAY. High count 5/24 Rice (5) DAB.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) — [18 South, 9 North in all, but only 2 South, 9 North with details] Early south (median 5/11) 5/4 Fillmore NBO, 5/10 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/20) 5/26 Lake JWJ, 5/27 St. Louis CMB. High counts 5/30 St. Louis (8) PHS, Scott (5) BAF. Late south 5/30 Scott (5) BAF, 5/31 Hennepin PEB, Olmsted JWH, Scott BAF, but see summer report (median 6/6). **Note:** During spring and fall migration, undocumented records of silent *Empidonax* flycatchers are not published. Please include details or indicate that birds were vocalizing in the “Details” section of the online seasonal report.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*) — [5 South] Early south 5/13 Rice TFB, 5/24 Hennepin CMB, DWK, PEB, Houston JCC, KRE, LS. Also found in Le Sueur and Scott. High count 5/24 Houston (5, Beaver Creek Valley S.P.) KRE.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) — [15 South, 14 North in all, but only 3 South, 11 North with details] Early south (median 5/16) 5/11 Meeker DMF, 5/14 Lac Qui Parle BJU, McLeod DMF. Early north (median 5/16) 5/17 Lake JWJ, 5/24 Lake of the Woods MHK. High count 5/31 Hennepin (10, T.S. Roberts sanctuary)

PEB. See summer report for late south dates.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) — [16 South, 3 North in all, but only 7 South and no North with details] Early south (median 5/8) 5/13 Dakota JPM, 5/15 Sherburne PLJ, 5/18 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Meeker DMF. Also reported with details from Meeker DPG, Hennepin HCT, PEB, Brown BTS, Dakota ADS, DFN, Scott DFN.

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) — [40 South, 30 North] Reported from 12 north and 14 south with details. Early south (median 4/30) 5/1 Fillmore NBO, Lac Qui Parle BJU, Olmsted JWH, 5/3 Carver WCM, Rice DAB. Early north (median 5/4) 5/10 St. Louis *fide* JWL, Kanabec DPG. High counts 5/30 St. Louis (29, Duluth) PHS, 5/25 Marshall (16, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) — [46 South, 31 North] Early south (median 3/21) 3/21 Nobles BTS, 3/23 Kandiyohi JoS, 3/24 Faribault (4) WAF. Early north (median 3/29) 4/3 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/4 Douglas JPE, St. Louis PHS, 4/5 Cass DAY.

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*) — [1 North] First spring report since 2005, 4/25 Cook (Artist's Point, Grand Marais.) †LGr.

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) — [40 South, 23 North] Early south (median 5/1) 4/23 Washington CPK, 5/1 Hennepin CMB. Early north (median 5/7) 5/14 Aitkin KCR. High count 5/16 Scott (13, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) — [12 South, 5 North] Reported east to Sibley, Anoka. Early south (median 5/7) 5/4–7 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/10 Meeker DMF. All north 5/5 Traverse KRE, 5/15 Norman HHD, 5/16 Clay RHO, 5/18 Clay WCM, 5/22 Cass DAY, 5/25 Marshall DBM.

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) — [43 South, 28 North] Early south (me-

dian 4/27) 4/30 Blue Earth ChH, 5/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/4 Meeker DMF, Sibley RMD, Steele NFT. Early north (median 5/5) 5/9 Crow Wing JSB, Morrison RBJ, 5/13 Mille Lacs ASc. Highest spring count on record 5/27 Lake (70, Castle Danger W.T.P.) JWH.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) — [14 South] Reported from Big Stone, Blue Earth, Chippewa, Dakota (4 locations), Faribault, Goodhue, Hennepin, Lac Qui Parle, McLeod, Meeker (4 locations), Rice, Stearns, Wabasha, Washington. Early south (median 3/19) 4/2 Dakota LEC, 4/3 Blue Earth RMD.

Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) — [27 South, 17 North] Late south 4/9 Anoka CKB, 4/12 Dakota JLO, 4/13 Hennepin †ALD (median 4/4). Late north 4/15 Lake JWL, 4/17 Carlton TPW (median 4/19). High count 4/10 Lake (4) JWL.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) — [3 South] All reports 5/20–31 Dakota (as many as 3 singing males at Black Dog Nature Preserve S.N.A.) m.ob., 5/26–30 Wabasha (2, McCarthy Lake W.M.A.) KRE, RHO, 5/27 Le Sueur (Kasota Prairie) BJU.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) — [37 South, 16 North] Early dates identical with recent medians. Early south 5/1 Rice DAB, TFB, 5/2 Dakota DAT, 5/3 Benton MJB, Goodhue DAC, SWe, Sherburne MCA. Early north 5/9 Cass BAW, Mille Lacs RBJ, 5/13 Kanabec CAM, Mille Lacs ASc, 5/14 Kanabec DPG. High count 5/16 Scott (17, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) — [35 South, 19 North] Early south (median 4/28) 4/27 Rice TFB, 4/28 Meeker DMF, 4/29 Sherburne ASc. Early north (median 5/5) 5/1 Morrison JEB, 5/3 Hubbard PBB, 5/4 Morrison MJB. High counts 5/7 Rice (6) DAB, 5/13 Carver (5) JCC. Late south 5/31 Scott HAP, Stearns HHD, Waseca DAB (median 5/30).

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) — [39



Yellow-throated Vireo, 17 May 2008, Pine County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

South, 20 North] Early south (median 4/30) 5/1 Rice TFB, 5/2 Winona Job, 5/6 Hennepin DWK, CMB, Wabasha LMS. Early north (median 5/8) 5/13 Kanabec CAM, 5/14 St. Louis PHS.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) — [23 South, 10 North] Early south (median 5/7) 5/3 Goodhue DAC, SWe, 5/9 Meeker DMF, 5/10 Goodhue JPM, Washington LS. Early north (median 5/14) 5/16 Aitkin ASc, 5/17 Hubbard PBB. Late south 5/27 Le Sueur BJU, 5/28 Olmsted JWH, 5/31 Scott HAP, but see summer report (median 5/30).

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) — [36 South, 21 North] Early south (median 5/5) 5/8 Meeker DMF, Rice TFB, 5/10 Dakota RLW, Goodhue JCC, Hennepin FKB, Scott CRM. Early north (median 5/10) 5/13 Mille Lacs ASc, 5/16 Aitkin ASc. High count 5/30 Scott (42, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) — [10 North] Reported from traditional range in Northeast and North-central.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) — [50 South, 33 North] Reported statewide. High counts 5/9 Mille Lacs (140) RBJ, 5/3 Goodhue (100) BNW.

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) — [12 North] Reported as far south as Norman in the Northwest, plus Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Koochiching, and St. Louis.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) — [52 South, 32 North] Reported statewide. High count 3/31 Hennepin (112, Nicollet Island, downtown Minneapolis) SCA.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) — [1 South, 26 North] All south reports 3/2–5/17 Sherburne (Sherburne N.W.R. and Sand Dunes State Forest) †PCC, m. ob. North reports west to Kittson, Marshall, Polk, and Norman. High count 3/1 Carlton (15, Ditchbank Rd.) JCC.

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) — [50 South, 24 North] High counts 3/23 Mower (100, near Sargeant) NFT, 3/15 Wadena (63) PJB.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) — [39 South, 22 North] Early south (median 4/5) 4/4 Anoka (3) CKB, 4/8 Freeborn AEB, Rice TFB. Early north (median 4/11) 4/9 Mille Lacs (2) RBJ, 4/17 St. Louis (3) PHS.

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) — [51 South, 31 North] Early south (median 3/20) 3/15 Anoka (Coon Rapids dam) DWK, RLR, 3/27 Anoka CKB, Chisago DMF. Early north (median 4/2) 4/4 Douglas JPE, Hubbard MAW, Mille Lacs NSC, Otter Tail *vide* JMJ, 4/5 Crow Wing SMA, Itasca EEO. High counts 4/27 Hennepin (950, Long Meadow Lake) BAF.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) — [45 South, 19 North] Early south (median 4/11) 4/16 Hennepin WCM, Rice DAB, 4/17 Hennepin CMB, Rice TFB. Early north (median 4/20) 4/21 St. Louis FKB, 4/24

Traverse DBM, 4/27 Cass BAW, St. Louis SLF.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) — [41 South, 21 North] Early south (median 4/17) 4/19 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) LS, 4/21 Rice TFB, 4/22 Dakota ADS, Stearns PCC. Early north (median 4/30) 5/6 Clay RHO, Mille Lacs RBW, Otter Tail DST, 5/7 Mille Lacs ASc. High counts 5/4 Rice (30) DAB, 5/17 Carver (30) JCy.

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) — [46 South, 30 North] Early south (median 4/17) 4/19 Dakota (Black Dog Lake) LS, 4/21 Hennepin RBJ, 4/23 Meeker DMF, Scott PEJ. Early north (median 4/25) 4/26 Lake JWJ, 4/27 St. Louis SLF, 4/28 Cass BAW. High counts 5/28 Marshall (395, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS, 5/25 Marshall (258, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) — [49 South, 31 North] Early south dates all from Dakota: 4/7 JPM, 4/10 JLO, 4/15 BRL (median 4/11). Early north (median 4/19) 4/17 Aitkin KCR, Mille Lacs NSc, 4/19 Douglas JPE, 4/21 Becker *fide* MJJ. High count 4/25 Fillmore (75) RTP.

Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) — [51 South, 33 North] Reported statewide.

Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonica*) — [5 North] Reported from Aitkin, Hubbard, Itasca, Lake, St. Louis. High count 3/1 Lake (10) JWJ.

Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) — [7 South] Two reports outside of usual range: mid-Feb. through 3/16 **Martin** (Trimont) HHD, DAB, JEB, JWH, 4/13 **Anoka** (Carlos Avery W.M.A.) HHD. Also reported from Dakota, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Olmsted.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) — [37 South, 29 North] High count 5/31 Koochiching (20) AXH. Late south 5/22 Chisago MHe, 5/27 Renville BJU, 5/31 Olmsted (2, Oakwood Cemetery)



Red-breasted Nuthatch, 7 April 2008, Superior National Forest, Cook County. Photo by David Brisance.

JWH (median 5/23); see summer report for June south observations.

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) — [50 South, 31 North] Reported statewide. High count 3/1 Mille Lacs (**17**) ASc.

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) — [35 South, 21 North] Early north (median 3/28) 3/2 Clay RHO, Hubbard PBB, 3/15 Wadena PJB. Late south 5/5 Hennepin DWK, Ramsey LMS, 5/11 Scott DFN, 5/14 Hennepin ATF (median 5/22).

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) — [1 South] All reports from St. Paul, Ramsey County, 3/13–26 (Amherst and Princeton) JJS, RBW, FKB and 3/29+ (private backyard) *fide* AXH, 5/6 (Crosby Farm Park) JPS.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) — [46 South, 27 North] Early south (median 4/17) 4/12 Fillmore ADB, 4/15 Ramsey RTB, 4/17 Meeker DMF, 4/21 Blue Earth ChH, Rice TFB. Early north (median 4/30) 4/24 Becker *fide* MJJ, 5/7 Kanabec CAM, 5/9 Mille Lacs ASc. High counts 5/9



Tufted Titmouse, 4 May 2008, Hok-Si-La Park, Goodhue County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.



Eastern Bluebird, 15 May 2008, North Oaks, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

Hennepin (18, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge/Bass Ponds trails) BAF.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) — [24 South, 13 North] First reports 3/4, 3/9 Fillmore NBO likely an overwintering bird. Early south migrants (median 3/27) 3/25 Rice TFB, 3/30 Faribault WAF, 4/3 Olmsted JWH, Rice DAT. Early north (median 4/6) 4/9 Mille Lacs RBJ, 4/12 Morrison HHD, 4/18 St. Louis *fide* JWJ. Late south 5/10 Stearns HHD, 5/11 Winona DBz, JWH, 5/13 Anoka CAB, Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 5/13).

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) — [40 South, 26 North] Early south (median 4/27) 4/22 Rice TFB, 4/23 Olmsted JWH, 4/27 Mower ARW. Early north (median 5/3) 4/30 Aitkin PEJ, 5/5 Cass BAW, 5/9 Mille Lacs RBJ, St. Louis TPW. High count 5/13 Carver (9) JCC.

Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) — [41 South, 23 North] Early south (median 4/25) 4/20 Nobles DBM, 4/21 Washington CPK, 4/23 Hennepin CMB. Early north (median 5/4) 4/29 Lake (Flood Bay) JWJ, 5/4 St. Louis PHS, 5/5 Cass BAW. High

count 5/22 Marshall (**32**, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) — [35 South, 19 North] Early south (median 3/25) 3/21 Nobles BTS, 3/25 Faribault WAF, 3/28 Dakota CMB, Renville JoS. Early north (median 3/25) 4/5 St. Louis DGo, 4/7 Mille Lacs ASc, St. Louis FKB. High count 4/11 Fillmore (10) NBO. Late south 5/20 Sherburne ASc, **5/21** Ramsey EMH (median 5/6).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) — [46 South, 32 North] Early south (median 3/26) 3/29 Hennepin DCZ, Nobles HHD, 3/30 Hennepin DWK, Jackson LS, HHD, 4/3 Faribault WAF. Early north (median 4/6) 4/4 Douglas JPE, 4/7 St. Louis FKB, 4/8 Mille Lacs ASc. High counts 5/31 Koochiching (30) AXH, 4/18 Scott (20, Louisville Swamp) BAF. Late south 5/20 Olmsted CCB, Rice DAB, 5/21 Hennepin DWK, 5/27 Renville and Scott BJU (median 5/24).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila caerulea*) — [38 South, 5 North] Early south (median 4/21) 4/21 Washington CPK, 4/22

Rice TFB, 4/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/7) **4/16** Mille Lacs (Kunkel W.M.A.) ASC, 5/13 Kanabec CAM. High count 5/30 Scott (**21**, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) — [49 South, 27 North] Early south (median 3/2) 3/7 Wabasha KCR, 3/9 Fillmore NBO, JWH, 3/11 Goodhue LEC. Early north (median 3/15) 3/25 Mille Lacs NSc, 3/27 Wadena PJB, 3/28 Cass BAW, Mille Lacs ASC. High count 3/26 Fillmore (15) RTP.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) — [1 South] Only report 4/19 Meeker (male with several Eastern Bluebirds) DMF.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) — [3 South, 1 North] South reports from Ramsey, where one overwintered at the Science Museum of Minnesota and was last reported 3/13 DAC, RBJ; 3/27 Carver (Rapids Lake Unit, Minnesota Valley N.W.R.) BJo; 4/11–12 Carver (Chanhassen) *vide* AXH; and 4/15 Olmsted (Chester Woods Park, Rochester) *vide* AXH. All north 4/7–13 St. Louis (Park Point) PHS, 4/27 St. Louis (Stoney Point) DAY.

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) — [30 South, 21 North] Early south (median 5/1) 4/30 Rice TFB, 5/2 Hennepin DWK, 5/3 Dakota JLO. Early north (median 5/8) 5/7 Cass (2) DAY, 5/9 Carlton LAW, 5/10 Clay RHO. High count 5/31 Koochiching (12) AXH.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) — [28 South, 22 North] Early south (median 5/3) 5/1 Rice TFB, 5/3 Brown JSS and Dakota JPM, 5/4 Dakota DFN, Meeker DMF, Scott DFN, Sibley RMD. Early north (median 5/8) 4/30 Otter Tail *vide* JMJ, 5/7 Cass DAY, 5/9 Polk *vide* JMJ. High counts 5/14 Sibley (**18**) WCM, 5/11 Faribault (**8**) WAF. Late south 5/27 Dakota, Le Sueur BJU, 5/28 Meeker DPG, 5/30 Scott BAF (median 5/27). Late north 5/26 Clearwater JMJ, Cook JWH, Norman DBM, 5/30 St. Louis FKB, 5/31 Koochiching (2) AXH



Hermit Thrush, 30 April 2008, Superior National Forest, Cook County. Photo by David Brisance.

(median 5/28).

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) — [42 South, 26 North] Early south (median 4/26) 4/22 Brown JSS, 4/27 Dakota JPM, 5/1 Blue Earth ChH, Fillmore NBO, Meeker DMF, Olmsted JWH. Early north (median 5/2) 4/26 Aitkin KCR, 5/6 Crow Wing RBW, 5/7 Clay RHO, Mille Lacs ASC. Peak migration 5/14 with several high counts including Sibley (**77**) WCM. Many south reports through 5/31, see summer report for late migrants.

Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) — [30 South, 25 North] Possibly overwintering bird 3/3 Hennepin (Bass ponds) PEJ. Early south migrants (median 3/29) 3/25 Faribault WAF, 3/30 Hennepin DWK, Rice (2) DAB, TFB. Early north (median 4/10) 3/29 Becker ABL, 4/8 Mille Lacs ASC. High counts 4/27 St. Louis (**274**) PHS, 4/11 Faribault (49) WAF, 4/12 Le Sueur (45) DAB. Late south 5/16 Anoka CKB, Scott JEB, 5/17 Stearns MJB (median 5/16).

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) — [28 South, 14 North] Early south (median 5/1) 5/2 Dakota JPM, 5/3 Stearns MDN, 5/4 Meeker DMF, Sibley RBW. Early north (median 5/8) 5/4 St. Louis AXH, 5/7 Cass BAW, 5/10 Crow Wing ADB. High counts 5/4 St. Louis (12) AXH, 5/16 Scott (7) BAF.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) — [52 South, 34 North] Overwintered statewide. High counts 3/31 Kanabec (1,000) CAM, 4/7 Crow Wing (1,000) JSB.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) — [1 South, 4 North] Only south report 3/29 Hennepin (Wayzaya) *vide* AXH. Overwintering birds continued through 3/29 Mille Lacs (feeder in Princeton) m. ob., through 3/16 St. Louis (feeder in East Duluth) DAB, *vide* JWJ, and through 3/27 Todd (Moran Twp.) BLH. Additional north reports through 4/11 Cass (first seen 2/14, Manhattan Beach) ph. LWa, 4/11–17 St. Louis (Britt) ph. *vide* PHS.

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) — [42 South, 30 North] Early south (median 4/27) 4/22 Dakota SWe, 5/1 Carver ALD, Dakota JLO, Fillmore NBO, Lac Qui Parle BJU, Olmsted JWH. Early north (median 5/6) 4/22 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/26 Aitkin KCR, 5/5 Cass DAY. High count 5/18 Hennepin (34, Crow-Hassan P.R.) ALD.

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) — [6 South, 3 North] Early south 4/20 Mower ARW, 4/22 Faribault WAF. May reports from Mower, Meeker, Olmsted (2 separate reports), Blue Earth, Brown. All north 5/4–5 St. Louis DAG, FKB, 5/14 Lake (Two Harbors) JWJ, 5/16 Lake (Castle Danger) *vide* JWJ, 5/22 St. Louis MLH, 5/25 Cass ph. †BAW.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) — [43 South, 24 North] Early south (median 4/12) 4/16 Rice TFB, 4/17 Carver RBW, 4/18 Blue Earth ChH. Early north (median 4/23) 4/16 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/19 Douglas JPE, 4/22 Otter Tail SPM.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) —

[52 South, 33 North] Reported statewide, no notably high counts.

American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) — [16 South, 9 North] Early south (median 4/14) 3/30 Dakota (2) ADS, 4/5 Stearns PCC, 4/6 Brown BTS. Early north (median 4/28) 5/10 Clay (3, near Big Swede Lake) RHO, Otter Tail DST, 5/15 Polk (14) RPR. High count 5/15 Polk (14, Glacial Ridge N.W.R.) RPR. Late south 5/17 Blue Earth ChH, RMD, Hennepin DWK, PEB, HCT, 5/21 Blue Earth ChH, 5/24 Rice DAB (median 5/16). Late north 5/26 Cass BAW, Cook JWH, 5/27 Lake JWH, 5/29 St. Louis PHS (median 5/22).

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) — [2 South, 14 North] All south 3/2 Stearns (100, Sartell) MDN, 3/3 Meeker DMF. High counts 4/20 St. Louis (500, Duluth) *vide* JWJ, 3/9 Crow Wing (200) JSB. Latest reports: Northwest 4/10 Pennington (20) *vide* MJM, North-central 4/25 Itasca (18) CKK, Northeast 4/27 St. Louis (one at Southworth Marsh, Park Point, Duluth) PHS (median 4/16). The last two dates are record late north.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) — [38 South, 19 North] While some birds were present statewide at beginning of period, most south reports came after 4/1 and most Northeast reports not until May. High count 3/31 Kanabec (200) CAM.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) — [24 South, 1 North] Early south (median 5/2) 5/2 Rice DAT, 5/5 Wabasha and Winona HHD, JWH. Only north report 5/29 Hubbard (nest-building) AEK. High count 5/26 Scott (13, Louisville Swamp, all males on territory) BAF.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) — [29 South, 19 North] Early south (median 5/5) 5/2 Fillmore DBz, 5/3 Rice TFB, 5/5 Hennepin CMB, DAC. Early north (median 5/8) 5/8 Cass BAW, 5/13 Crow Wing JSB, Mille Lacs ASc, 5/14 Clearwater JEB, Kanabec DPG. High count 5/16 Scott (10, Murphy-Hanrehan



Golden-winged Warbler, 17 May 2008, Pine County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

P.R.) BAF. “Brewster’s Warbler” 5/11 Winona †ANY. “Lawrence’s Warbler” reported 5/14 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) JBB.

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) — [41 South, 26 North] Early south (median 4/28) 4/27 Hennepin WCM, 4/29 Meeker DMF, 5/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (median 5/6) 5/7 Mille Lacs ASC, 5/10 Clay RHO, Crow Wing JSB, Itasca EEO. High count 5/16 Scott (53, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. Reported statewide through end of period, see summer report.

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) — [37 South, 25 North] Early south (median 4/20) 4/19 Carver (Carver P.R.) JCy, Dakota RMD, BRL, 4/21 Blue Earth ChH, Faribault ARW, Rice TFB. Early north (median 4/25) 4/23 Mille Lacs ASC,

Todd (2) MJB, 4/24 Otter Tail *fide* MJJ, 4/26 Pennington MJJ, St. Louis *fide* JWL. High count 5/3 Hennepin (21) CMB. Late south 5/20 Meeker HHD, Olmsted CCB, Rice DAB, TFB, 5/21 Blue Earth RBW, ChH, 5/24 Stearns HHD (median 5/21). Late north 5/29 Beltrami MJJ, 5/30 St. Louis (Park Point, Duluth) PHS (median 5/27).

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) — [42 South, 29 North] Early south (median 4/26) 4/27 Chisago JWH, 4/28 Dakota (4) JPM, 4/29 Meeker DMF, Mower ARW, JEM, Olmsted JWH. Early north (median 5/3) 5/2 Clay (3) RHO, 5/3 Douglas JPE, 5/5 Cass BAW, Kanabec CAM. High count 5/16 Scott (58, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF. Late south 5/27 Sherburne ASC, Stearns MJB, 5/31 Waseca DAB, but see summer report (median 5/29).



Cape May Warbler, 13 May 2008, Eagan, Dakota County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) — [32 South, 20 North] Early south (median 5/1) 5/2 Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.) CMB, 5/3 Benton MJB, Dakota JPM, Sherburne MCA. Early north (median 5/6) 5/5 Cass BAW, 5/9 Hubbard MAW. High counts 5/15 Dakota (15) JPM, 5/24 Cook (15) AGE. Late south 5/27 Le Sueur, Renville, and Scott BJU, Sherburne ASC, 5/31 Dakota RLW, see summer report for additional late south migrants (median 5/26).

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) — [44 South, 30 North] Early south (median 4/27) 4/26 Rice TFB, 4/27 Hennepin BAF, Le Sueur JCC. Early north (median 5/4) 4/30 Clay *vide* JMJ, 5/2 Becker *vide* JMJ, 5/7 Cass BAW, Clay (2) RHO, Otter Tail DST. High count 5/30 St. Louis (53) PHS.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica*

pennsylvanica) — [35 South, 27 North] Early south (median 5/6) 5/2 Rice TFB, 5/3 Mower ARW, JWH, 5/6 Dakota JLO. Early north (median 5/8) 5/13 Wadena PJB. High counts 5/13 Scott (24, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) DWK, 5/30 St. Louis (22) PHS.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) — [36 South, 23 North] Early south (median 5/5) 5/4 McLeod HHD, Rice TFB, 5/5 Sherburne ASC, 5/6 Hennepin CMB. Early north (median 5/8) 5/9 Cass (2) BAW, 5/10 Clay DWR, PBB. High count 5/30 St. Louis (26) PHS. Late south 5/30 Scott BAF, 5/31 Le Sueur RBJ, Olmsted JWH, also see summer report (median 5/31).

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) — [24 South, 20 North] Early south (median 5/7) 5/2 Stearns (Mississippi C.P.)

MJB, 5/3 Dakota PEJ, Goodhue (3) BNW, Mower ARW, JWH. Early north (median 5/9) 5/8 Cass BAW, 5/9 Clay RHO, 5/10 Hubbard MAW. High counts 5/13 Lake (14, Two Harbors to Knife River) JWL, 5/22 Marshall (12, Agassiz N.W.R. headquarters) PHS. New county record: 5/13 **Sibley** RMD. Late south 5/22 Chippewa DMF, 5/25 Dakota ADS, 5/27 Scott BJU (median 5/22).

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) — [7 South, 5 North] Many more reports than usual. Early south (median 5/11) 5/10 Hennepin m.ob., **Stearns** *fide* PCC, ph. PNM, HHD. Late south 5/19 Washington BRL, 5/21 Hennepin CMB (median 5/22). Early north (median 5/18) 5/13 Cook DMB, 5/15 Cook *fide* JWL, 5/17 Itasca EEO.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) — [45 South, 33 North] Early south (median 4/2) 3/27 Rice (2) FVS, 3/30 Fillmore NBO, 4/3 Olmsted JWH. Early north (median 4/7) **3/5** Mille Lacs (feeder in Princeton, overwintered?) ph. †SLP, 3/31 Pennington *fide* JMJ, 4/3 Cook *fide* JWL. High counts 5/14 St. Louis (224) PHS, 4/27 Hennepin (203) BAF, 5/10 Clay (200) RHO. Late south 5/29 Dakota (adult male) JPM, 5/30 Stearns MJB, 5/31 Lac Qui Parle BJU (median 5/27).

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) — [32 South, 18 North] Early south (median 4/30) 5/2 Dakota JLO, JPM, Olmsted JWH, 5/3 Goodhue (2) BNW, SWe, Ramsey TJM, Rice DAB, Sherburne MCA, Wright MJB. Early north (median 5/4) 5/4 Morrison MJB, 5/6 Cass (at Deep Portage, Woodrow Twp.) BAW. High count 5/15 Dakota (**25**) JPM. Late south 5/27 Le Sueur BJU, 5/30 Scott BAF, 5/31 Scott (singing male at Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) DWK, BAF (also see summer report) (median 5/30).

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) — [32 South, 18 North] Early south (median 5/4) 5/1 Dakota LMS, 5/3 Hennepin PEB, 5/4 Winona ANy. Early



Black-throated Blue Warbler, 18 May 2008, Superior National Forest, Cook County. Photo by David Brisance.

north (median 5/7) 5/7 St. Louis SES, 5/10 Aitkin KCR, Cass BAW, 5/11 Itasca EEO, St. Louis SLF. Peak migration 5/13 with high counts from Scott (8) DWK, Steele (5) NFT, and Sherburne (4) ADB. Late south 5/30 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF, 5/31 Hennepin PEJ, Mower RVJ, Olmsted JWH, Scott DWK (but see summer report) (median 5/30).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*) — [1 South] First spring report in 3 years, 5/25 Dakota (Dodge N.C.) †LWh.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) — [14 South, 18 North] Early south (median 4/23) 4/22 Hennepin JCy, 4/23 Benton RBW, 4/26 Anoka CKB, Fillmore NBO. Early north (median 4/25) 4/21 Mille Lacs NSc, 4/23 Hubbard MAW, 4/26 Lake *fide* JWL. First county record 5/13 **Sibley** RMD.

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*) — [40 South, 32 North] Early south (median 4/22) 4/20 Dakota LEC, Hennepin (Bass Ponds) LS, Ramsey BNW, 4/21

Washington CPK, 4/22 Dakota JCC. Early north (median 4/25) 4/25 Cass BAW, 4/26 Lake JWJ, St. Louis DAY, Todd CAM. High counts 5/14 St. Louis (55) PHS, 5/6 Hennepin (34) CMB. Late south 5/23 Hennepin JCy, CMB, 5/24 Chisago REH, 5/27 Scott BJU (median 5/23).

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) — [21 South, 12 North] Early south (median 5/8) 5/8 Dakota JLO, 5/10 Meeker DMF, 5/11 Dakota ADS, Ramsey BNW. Early north (median 5/13) 5/13 Aitkin KCR, 5/14 Lake JWJ, 5/16 Aitkin ASC. Late south 5/27 Renville, Scott BJU, 5/31 Dakota RLW, Waseca DAB (median 5/24).

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) — [37 South, 23 North] Early south (median 5/4) 5/5 Dakota JLO, 5/6 Hennepin CMB, Ramsey REH. Early north (median 5/9) 5/7 Cass BAW, 5/9 Morrison RBJ, 5/10 Clay DWR, PBB. High counts 5/14 Yellow Medicine (31) BJU, 5/15 Dakota (30) JPM. Late migrants reported through 5/31 north and south; see summer report for late dates (median 5/29 north and south).

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) — [15 South] Early south (median 5/7) 5/4 Dakota JLO, 5/6 Hennepin (Wood Lake N.C.) CMB, 5/10 Meeker (Woodland Park) DMF.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) — [39 South, 31 North] Early south (median 4/26) 4/23 McLeod PRH, 4/28 Meeker DMF, 4/29 Hennepin DAC. Early north (median 5/3) 4/26 Otter Tail SPM, 4/29 Lake *fide* JWJ, 5/1 Hubbard JEB. High count 5/22 Marshall (26, Agassiz N.W.R. headquarters) PHS.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) — [43 South, 29 North] Early south (median 5/3) 5/1 Rice TFB, 5/3 Fillmore NBO, Le Sueur RMD, 5/4 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/7) 5/9 Mille Lacs RBJ, 5/10 Cass BAW, Crow Wing (2) JSB. High counts 5/30 St. Louis (63) PHS, 5/16 Scott (44, Murphy-Hanrehan Park north trails, Scott & Dakota.) BAF.

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) — [15 South] Early south (median 5/4) 5/3 Goodhue DAC, SWe, Washington LKe, 5/5 Ramsey (Maplewood Nature Center) EEO. An individual observed by DMF on 5/7 near Granite Falls, Chippewa County subsequently flew across the Minnesota River into **Yellow Medicine**, furnishing a new county record. High count 5/25 Houston (6, Millstone Landing and La Crescent) KRE.

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) — [40 South, 27 North] Early south (median 4/30) 4/21 Washington CPK, 4/30 Rice TFB, 5/1 Blue Earth ChH, Dakota ADS, Hennepin (2) CMB, Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (median 5/4) 4/25 Douglas JPE, 5/2 Clay RHO, 5/4 Cass DAY, Morrison MJB. High count 5/16 Scott (24, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF.

Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) — [40 South, 26 North] Early south (median 4/25) 4/23 Washington CPK, 4/26 Rice TFB, 4/29 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/4) 4/26 Mille Lacs ASC, 5/1 Otter Tail DST, 5/2 Clay RHO. High counts 5/14 Yellow Medicine (19, Upper Sioux Agency S.P. and Blue Devil Valley S.N.A.) BJU, 5/9 Lac Qui Parle (15) BJU, 5/2 Hennepin (10) CMB. Late south 5/27 Dakota, Le Sueur, Renville, and Scott BJU, Rice DAB, 5/31 Dakota RLW, Washington MJB (median 5/29).

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) — [9 South] Early south reports 4/29 Olmsted JWH, 5/2 Rice TFB, 5/5 Olmsted HHD well after 4/22 median. No north reports.

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) — [3 South] All reports 5/16 Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF, m.ob., 5/17–27 Blue Earth (Williams Nature Park) ChH, m.ob., 5/22–31 Scott (Louisville Swamp) JCC, m.ob., 5/27 Hennepin (T.S. Roberts Sanctuary) SRG.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) — [9 South, 7 North] Early south (me-

dian 5/10) 5/12 Ramsey (Crosby Farm Park) DKO, 5/17 Meeker DMF, 5/20 Olmsted JWH, 5/22 Rice TFB. Early north 5/17 (median) Otter Tail DBM, 5/24 St. Louis JLO, DWK, 5/25 Cass BAW. Late south 5/27 Rice DAB, 5/30 Hennepin PEB, 5/31 Dakota DWK, JLO, Hennepin SRG, Scott BAF (median 5/30).

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) — [25 South, 11 North] Early south (median 5/9) 5/10 Meeker DMF, 5/11 Faribault WAF, Rice TFB, 5/12 Carver. Early north (median 5/14) 5/13 St. Louis PHS, 5/14 Beltrami DPJ, 5/16 Aitkin ASC. Late south 5/31 Dakota DWK, JLO, Hennepin PEB, Scott DWK, DFN, HAP, Stearns HDD (median 6/6). Reports continue in five southern counties into June indicating probable breeding territories, please see summer seasonal report.

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) — [45 South, 27 North] Early south (median 5/2) 4/26 Mower JEM, 5/1 Dakota JLO, Rice TFB, 5/2 Fillmore DBz. Early north (median 5/7) 5/9 Mille Lacs RBJ, Morrison RBJ, 5/10 Clay RHO, 5/13 five additional counties. Notable high counts 5/30 St. Louis (31) PHS, 5/28 Marshall (30, Agassiz N.W.R.) PHS.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) — [5 South] Record early report 4/19 Nicollet ph. NVo. Also reported from Murphy-Hanrehan P.R. 5/10–31 Scott/Dakota BAF, JPM, CRM, ADS, m.ob. High count of 9 birds found for the park 5/31 BAF. Other sightings 5/10 Washington (William O'Brien S.P.) DFN, PEJ, 5/11 Waseca DAB, 5/13 Freeborn (Myre-Big Island S.P.) AEB, 5/25+ Dakota RLW, JWo, (Lebanon Hills R.P.) ADS.

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) — [37 South, 20 North] Early south (median 5/4) 5/5 Ramsey BNW, Wabasha HDD, JWH, 5/7 Hennepin DWK, CMB, Ramsey LS, Rice TFB. Early north (median 5/10) 5/11 Cass DAY, 5/13 Kanabec CAM. Late south 5/28 Dakota RLW, Olmsted JWH, 5/31 Hennepin PEB (median 5/29).

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) — [24 South, 14 North] Early south (median 5/9) 5/10 Steele NFT, 5/11 McLeod PRH, 5/13 Dakota JLO, JPM, Hennepin CMB. Early north (median 5/13) 5/18 Kanabec CAM, 5/22 Cass BAW, Marshall PHS, 5/23 Becker JEB, Itasca JEB. Late south 5/29 Hennepin DWK, 5/30 Scott BAF, 5/31 Dakota RLW, Scott PEJ (median 5/31).

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) — [1 South] Only report: 5/17 **Mower** RVJ.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) — [4 South, 3 North] All south reports (median 5/3) 5/1–3 Mower (Austin) ARW, JEM, 5/4 **Sibley** (adult male, Rush River C.P.) RMD, 5/8 Blue Earth (Minneopa S.P.) ChH, 5/9–14 **Stearns** (first spring male in Farming Twp.) ph. DLL *fide* PCC, 5/17 Stearns (female at Avon Hills S.N.A.) MJB, 5/31 Steele (first spring male, Owatonna) ph. LJo. All north reports (median 5/15) 5/13–14 Lake (Two Harbors) ph. JWJ, †PHS, 5/14–15 Aitkin (Lake Minnewawa) KCR, JSB, 5/15 Cook (Grand Marais) LGr.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) — [34 South, 20 North] Early south (median 5/5) 5/2 Winona JOB, 5/6 Hennepin ALD, 5/8–10 Fillmore (eating suet) NBO. Early north 5/12 (median) Crow Wing JSB, 5/14 Kanabec CAM.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) — [4 South, 2 North] All reports 4/28–29 Pine ph. DSe, 5/11 Hennepin (Hyland P.R.) PEJ, 5/12–14 **Stearns** (Paynesville Twp) †PCC, ph. DAC, m.ob., 5/13 Freeborn AEB, 5/14 Crow Wing (Stark Lake) JSB, 5/16 Ramsey (Lake Vadnais) ph. GW.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) — No documented reports.

Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) — [30 South, 12 North] Early south (median 4/15) 4/19 Carver WCM, 4/20 Fillmore NBO, 4/21 Rice TFB, Sherburne ASC, Washington CPK. Early north (median 5/4) 4/25 Cass (Brainerd) *fide* PSP,



Summer Tanager, 13 May 2008, Two Harbors, Lake County. Photo by James W. Lind.



Clay-colored Sparrow, 13 May 2008, Woodrow Township, Cass County. Photo by Ben Wieland.

4/26–29 Cass (Pillager) MRN, 4/30 Hubbard MAW.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) — [46 South, 25 North] Late south (median 5/1) 5/6 Anoka CKB, 5/12–14 Fillmore RTP, 5/14 Yellow Medicine BJU. Late north 5/13 Cook DMB, Marshall and Roseau *fide* MJJ, 5/17 Lake JWJ, 5/18 Aitkin WMa (median 5/4).

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) — [46 South, 33 North] One 3/2 Mower †ARW was probably overwintering. Early south (median 3/26) 3/21 Fillmore RTP, 4/2 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/3 Hennepin CMB, 4/5 Big Stone and Dakota. Early north (median 4/11) 4/5 Hubbard MAW, 4/9 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/15 Clay RHO, Itasca CKK. Noteworthy high counts 5/10 Clay (200, Gooseberry Park) RHO, 5/14 Mille Lacs (100) DPG.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) — [39 South, 29 North] Early south (median 4/21) 4/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/27 Hennepin HCT, Meeker DMF, 4/29 Dakota CMB. Early north (median 4/27) 4/24 Mille Lacs ASc, NSc, 4/30 Becker FKB, Clay RHO, 5/3 Douglass JPE.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) — [44 South, 9 North] Early south (median 3/31) 4/4 Dakota JPM, 4/5 Brown BTS, Fillmore HHD, Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/6 Hennepin, Rice and Rock. Early north (median 4/22) 4/17 **Itasca** ph. EEO, 4/22 Otter Tail DST, 4/23 Mille Lacs and Morrison. Noteworthy high counts 4/27 Scott (**20**, Murphy-Hanrehan P.R.) BAF, 5/13 Lac Qui Parle (13, Lac Qui Parle C.P.) BJU, 5/26 Scott (13, Louisville Swamp) BAF.

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) — [47 South, 25 North] Early south (median 3/28) 3/30 Blue Earth JEB, JWH, 4/3 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Meeker DMF, 4/4 Murray RBW. Early north (median 4/12) 4/13 Mille Lacs NSc, ASc, 4/15 Itasca CKK, 4/16 Polk *fide* MJJ.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) — [20 South, 9 North] Early south (median 4/22) 4/22 Sherburne PLJ, 4/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/26 Chippewa RBW, 4/28 Dakota JPM, Goodhue JWH, 4/29 Le Sueur RBJ. Second county record 5/3 Mower ARW. Early north 4/24 Traverse DBM, 4/26 Polk LS, m.ob., 4/30 Otter Tail *fide* MJJ. Unusual locations 5/27 Lake (Castle

Danger W.T.P.) DBz, JWH, 5/31 St. Louis (Bayfront Festival Park) CAG, m.ob.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — [41 South, 29 North] Early south (median 3/31) 4/5 Meeker DMF, 4/8 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/11 Faribault WAF, 4/16 Rice TFB. Early north (median 4/17) 4/15 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/17 Hubbard MAW, 4/19 Douglas JPE. Noteworthy high counts 4/27 Cass (**50**) BAW, 4/27 Scott (**25**) JCC.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) — [27 South, 5 North] Early south (median 4/26) 4/23 Washington CPK, 5/1 Lac Qui Parle BJU, Sherburne ASc, 5/3 Meeker DMF, 5/5 Kandiyohi DMF, Wabasha HHD, JWH. All north (median 5/8) 5/10 Clay CMN, RHO, 5/14 Clay RBJ, DAC, 5/15 Norman HHD, Polk RPR, 5/20 Pennington LBF, 5/30 Cass BAW.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) — [7 South] Early south 4/22+ Rice (Valley Grove Church) TFB, m.ob., 5/2 Fillmore DBz, 5/5 Wabasha (Weaver Dunes) HHD, JWH, 5/9 Fillmore RBW, 5/10 Hennepin HCT, 5/11+ Winona (Great River Bluffs S.P.) HHD, JWH, m.ob. Season high count 5/25 Hennepin (7, Crow-Hassan P.R.) HCT.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) — [8 South, 10 North] Early south (median 4/23) 4/17–24 Rice TFB, 4/30 Hennepin CMB, 5/1 Lac Qui Parle (Madison Twp.) BJU, 5/3 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 5/1) 5/2 Cass BAW, 5/3 Aitkin *fide* JWJ, 5/9 Polk *fide* JMJ, 5/13 Marshall *fide* JMJ. High count 5/28 Aitkin (**10**) CMB.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) — [6 South, 5 North] Early south (median 5/10) 5/9 Meeker DMF, 5/17 (3) and 5/21 (5) Blue Earth (Cobb River W.P.A. and Indian Lake W.M.A.) ChH, RMD) ChH. All north (median 5/22) 5/25 Cass BAW, Lake JWJ, DBz, Mahnomen DBM, Marshall PHS, 5/28 Aitkin CMB. High count 5/28 Aitkin (**8** at McGregor Marsh) CMB.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) — [44 South, 24 North] Possibly overwintering was one in Rice beginning 2/28+ TFB. Early south (median 3/13) 3/21 Faribault WAF, Fillmore NBO, Nobles BTS, Rice TFB. Early north (median 3/29) 4/1 Otter Tail *fide* JMJ, 4/3 Mille Lacs ASc. Late south 5/3 Goodhue BNW, Sherburne MCA, Stearns LS, 5/5 Fillmore RTP (median 4/28). Late north 5/13 Cook DMB, **5/22** Marshall PHS (median 5/8). Some noteworthy high counts for the season: 4/27 St. Louis (**192**) PHS, 4/12 Anoka (102) CKB, 4/12 Meeker (80) DMF.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) — [52 South, 33 North] Reported throughout the state. See winter report for early migrants and overwintering individuals. South reports of this species begin in earnest in the last week of March. Early north (median 3/26) 3/31 Mille Lacs ASc, 4/3 Otter Tail DST, 4/4 Carlton LAW, Douglas JPE, Kanabec CAM, Lake JWJ, St. Louis PHS. Season high counts 5/30 St. Louis (**73**) PHS, 4/11 Isanti (67) CKB, 5/21 St. Louis (60) PHS.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) — [35 South, 30 North] Record early (median 4/12) and nicely described **3/21** Nobles †BTS and **3/27** Faribault WAF, 4/9 Dakota LEC. Early north (median 4/24) **4/6** Otter Tail SPM, 4/16 Becker BDS, 4/19 Douglas JPE. Late south 5/21 Blue Earth ChH and Brown JSS, 5/22 Chippeewa BJU, 5/27 Carver JCy (median 5/25).

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) — [44 South, 26 North] Early south (median 3/23) 3/30 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/2 Rice DAB, TFB, 4/4 Mower JEM, 4/5 Lincoln DBM, Meeker DMF, Steele JWJ. Early north (median 4/15) 4/21 Itasca CKK, St. Louis FKB, 4/23 Todd MJB, 4/24 Lake JWJ, Mille Lacs RBJ, DAC, St. Louis TPW.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) — [40 South, 32 North] Overwintered south (see winter report). Early south (median 3/18) 3/21 Ramsey EMH, 4/2 Dakota ADS, 4/11 Meeker DMF, 4/14

Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (median 4/11) 4/16 Marshall GT, 4/17 Otter Tail DST, 4/20 Aitkin KCR. Notable high count 4/30 Clay (300) RHO.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) — [25 South, 23 North] Early south (median 4/3) 4/4 Murray RBW, 4/7 Kandiyohi JoS, 4/19 Meeker DMF, 4/23 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Overwintered north (see winter report) 3/8 Mahnomen HHD and 4/11 Cook CJT. Presumed first migrants north (median 4/28) 4/26 Hubbard MAW, 5/1 Becker *vide* MJM. Late south 5/20 Meeker HHD, 5/22 Lac Qui Parle FAE, 5/24 Steele HCT (median 5/22) Late north 5/21 Marshall LBF, Otter Tail DST, 5/22 Aitkin MCA, 5/26 Cook JWH (median 5/21). Bulk of south and north reports began end of April.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) — [29 South, 26 North] Possibly overwintering or a very early migrant was one in Rice beginning 2/28+ TFB. Early south (median 4/21) 4/21 Kandiyohi JoS, 4/27 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/28 Meeker DMF, 4/29 Fillmore RTP. Early north (median 4/22) 4/27 St. Louis *vide* JWJ, 4/30 Clay RHO, Otter Tail *vide* MJM. Late south 5/20 Dakota JLO, Lac Qui Parle FAE, Meeker HHD, Steele LS, 5/21 Anoka RLR, Carver JCC (median 5/21). Late north 5/24 Aitkin DPG, Lake JWJ, 5/25 St. Louis DAB, 5/26 Cook JWH (median 5/25).

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) — [51 South, 30 North] Late south 5/13 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 5/14 Hennepin ATF, 5/26 Sherburne HCT (median 5/18). Season high counts 4/7 Crow Wing (1,000) JSB, 4/11 Isanti (800) CKB.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) — [26 South, 8 North] Early north (median 3/14) 3/9 Kittson HHD, Marshall MJM, 4/16 Polk NGE, St. Louis PHS. Late south 5/2 Fillmore DBz, 5/3 Stearns RBJ, and 5/10 Dakota JCC (median 5/3). Late north 5/17 Lake JWJ, St. Louis WCM, 5/21 St. Louis PHS (median 5/18). Season high count 4/27 Polk (minimum of 1,000) KRE.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) — [1 South, 1 North] Only report 5/4 Clay (8) PBB.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) — [2 North] One seen 5/10 Polk (Pembina Trail Preserve) †DLT. All other reports were from Felton Prairie: 5/6 Clay RHO, 5/17 Clay JWH, 5/19 Clay WCM, LBF.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) — [15 South, 19 North] Late south 3/23 Faribault WAF, Mower NFT, Waseca DAB, 3/24 Lac Qui Parle MJB, Pope MJB, 3/25 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/11 Dakota SWE (median 3/28). Late north 5/7 Kanabec CAM, St. Louis FKB, 5/13 Cook DMB, 5/14 Kittson LW (median 5/7). Season high counts 3/23 Mower (200) NFT, 3/4 Aitkin (115) KCR.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) — [46 South, 23 North] Reported throughout with extreme range limits to Kittson (3/31 *vide* MJM) and Lake (4/5 JWJ).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) — [42 South, 32 North] Early south (median 4/28) 4/29 Fillmore RTP, 5/1 Fillmore NBO, Lac Qui Parle BJU, Mower ARW, Rice DAB, Steele NFT. Early north (median 5/3) 4/30 Kanabec CAM, 5/2 Becker *vide* MJM, 5/3 Otter Tail SPM. As is typical with this species, the bulk of reports started the first week of May. New record seasonal high count 5/13 Ramsey (40) BNW. Also notable 5/26 Scott (31), Louisville Swamp) BAF.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) — [1 South] Only one report from an unexpected county 5/31 **Martin** RBJ.

LAZULI BUNTING (*Passerina amoena*) — [1 South] One male 5/21 **Hennepin** (Minnetonka) †SMK.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) — [35 South, 17 North] Early south (median 5/4) 5/1 Fillmore NBO, Goodhue LEC, 5/2 Fillmore DBz, 5/5 Winona HHD, JWH.



Pine Grosbeak, 6 March 2008, St. Louis County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.

Early north (median 5/9) 5/10 Aitkin KCR, 5/13 Kanabec CAM, Wadena PJB, 5/14 Hubbard MAW, St. Louis PHS, SLF. New record high count 5/26 Scott (26) BAF.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) — [6 South, 2 North] All south 5/19 Pipestone BJU, 5/25 Meeker DMF, 5/26 Dakota FKB, Sibley WCM, Wabasha KRE, 5/31 Lac Qui Parle BJU. All north 5/25 St. Louis CCB, 5/26 Clearwater JMJ.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) — [42 South, 25 North] Early south (median 5/1) 5/1 Faribault WAF, Lac Qui Parle BJU, Olmsted JWH, 5/2 Fillmore DBz, Kandiyohi JoS. Early north (median 5/5) **4/20** Wadena PJB, 5/9 Morrison RBJ, Polk NGE, 5/10 Clay RHO, Hubbard MAW, Mille Lacs ASC. Season high counts 5/15 Steele (45) DAB, 5/27 Lac Qui Parle (12) PHS.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) — [52 South, 35 North] Please see winter report for overwintering records. Presumed early north migrants (median 3/9) 3/14 Mille Lacs NSc, 3/18 Otter Tail *vide* JMJ, 3/19 Morrison MJB. Season high counts 3/15 Le Sueur (3,000) ALD, 3/26 Scott (2,300) DWK.

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) — [33 South, 13 North] Early south 3/12 Mower JEM, 3/14 Rice DAB, 3/22 Faribault WAF, 3/26 Le Sueur RBW, Meeker DMF. Early north (median 3/25) 3/12 Mille Lacs NSc, 3/29 Mille Lacs ASC, 4/3 Cass DAY, 4/4 Douglas JPE, 4/5 Kanabec CAM.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) — [38 South, 17 North] Early south 3/13 Meeker DMF, 3/15 Jackson PEJ, DFN, 3/19 Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (median 3/16) 3/16 Otter Tail SPM, 3/28 Otter Tail MRN, DST, 3/29 Mille Lacs ASC, Wadena PJB.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) — [42 South, 27 North] Early south (median 3/29) 4/5 Lincoln DBM, 4/11 Lac Qui Parle BJU, 4/12 Redwood RBJ, DAC. Early north (median 4/10) 3/31 Otter Tail *vide* JMJ, 4/4 Marshall GT, 4/16 St. Louis UK, 4/17 Cook JRI.

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) — [32 South, 13 North] Early south (median 3/6) 3/21 Faribault WAF, Lac Qui Parle BJU, Nobles BTS, 3/26 Dakota JPM. Early north (median 3/19) 4/3 St. Louis MLH, 4/13 Morrison MJB, 4/16 Mille Lacs ASC. Late south 4/24 Stevens DBM, 5/3 Sherburne MCA, MJB, Stearns LS, (median 4/30). High count 4/26 Lake (250 in one yard, Two Harbors) JWJ.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) — [28 South, 21 North] Early south (median 3/13) 3/19 Mower JEM, 3/30 Hennepin DDo, 4/1 Freeborn AEB, 4/3 Meeker DMF. Early north (median 4/1) 4/18 Aitkin KCR, 4/19 Douglas JPE, Mille Lacs NSc. Season high count 4/27 Red Lake (220) SAS.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) — [52 South, 35 North] Presumed early north migrants (median 3/10) 3/9 Kittson HHD, JM], 3/26 Kanabec CAM, 3/28 Mille Lacs RBJ. See winter report for overwintering records.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) — [3 South] All reports 3/20 Jackson (1/2 mile N/NE of the town of Heron Lake) †BTS, 3/30 Jackson (SR 86) LS, HHD, KRE, 4/6 Jackson (SR 86) DBM, 5/6 Martin (location?) HHD, 5/9 Lyon (Black Rush Lake) RJS, 5/19 Martin (Pierce Lake) JEB.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) — [52 South, 33 North] Early south (median 3/12) 3/14 Waseca RBW, 3/15 Le Sueur RMD, 3/20 Fillmore RBW, 3/26 Dakota JPM, Mower RBW. Early north (median 4/6) 4/9 Mille Lacs RBJ, ASC, 4/11 Otter Tail DST, 4/12 Itasca BLu.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) — [32 South, 8 North] Early south (median 5/7) 5/2 Fillmore DBz, 5/3 Goodhue LEC, SWe, 5/10 Hennepin HCT, 5/11 Meeker DMF, Waseca DAB. Early north (median 5/14) 5/16 Clay RHO, 5/17 Pine RBJ, 5/19 Clay WCM, LBF. Noteworthy was 5/26 **Cook** CJT.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) — [44 South, 30 North] Early south (median 4/29) **4/23** Ramsey RTB, 4/30 Goodhue, 5/1 Blue Earth ChH, Fillmore NBO, Hennepin HCT, Lac Qui Parle BJU. Early north (median 5/4) 5/2 Hubbard MAW, 5/3 Cass *vide* JM], 5/4 Otter Tail DST, 5/6 Beltrami MLM.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) — [7 North] Sporadic reports throughout the north regions from 3/1 through 4/19 (median 4/5).

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) — [30 South, 25 North] Late south 5/14 Hennepin ATF, Sibley WCM, Scott JEB, 5/18 Rice DAB (median 5/16). Season

high count 4/26 Clearwater (**100**) KLa.

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) — [49 South, 26 North] Reported statewide.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) — [8 North] Reported throughout March and April in Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, St. Louis, and Wadena counties. Also reported 5/5 Carlton DBM.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucop-tera*) — [1 North] Only report 5/14 Itasca JEB.

Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flamma*) — [10 South, 23 North] Late south 3/31–4/4 Anoka CKB, DPG, 4/3 Hennepin DBM, 4/19 Hennepin MCA (median 4/5). Late north 5/4 Itasca EEO, 5/5 St. Louis SES, 5/14 St. Louis SLF, 5/18 Aitkin WMa (median 5/3).

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) — [5 North] All north reports 3/1–29 St. Louis DWK, JLO, m.ob. 3/13–31 Crow Wing JSB, 3/20 Cass DAY, 3/27 Cass BAW, Mille Lacs RBJ, 4/10 Aitkin KCR (median 4/6).

Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) — [22 South, 25 North] Reported throughout in all regions. Evidence of nest building in Saint Louis, Anoka, Blue Earth, and Beltrami.

American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) — [45 South, 32 North] Reported statewide.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) — [1 South, 12 North] Unusual south report 4/14–30 Fillmore (up to 12 seen at the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center) JDe, JJS, JWH, NBO. Reported throughout the north region.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) — [52 South, 31 North] Reported statewide in all counties but four.

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 THo Theresa Horan
 TJM Todd Merefild
 TMR Tom Rent
 TNe Theresa Nelson
 TPW Terry P Wiens
 UK Uwe Kausch
 VTh Vicky Thomas
 WAF Wayne A. Feder
 WCM William Marengo
 WEN Warren Nelson

WMA William Matthews, Jr.
 WMS William M. Stauffer

Abbreviations

C.P. County Park
 N.C. Nature Center
 N.W.R. National Wildlife Refuge
 P.R. Park Reserve
 R.P. Regional Park
 S.N.A. Scientific and Natural Area
 S.P. State Park
 W.M.A. Wildlife Management Area
 W.P.A. Waterfowl Protection Area
 W.T.P. Wastewater Treatment Ponds

Birding by Hindsight

A Second Look at Flycatchers

Kim R. Eckert



Flycatchers? You've got to be kidding. At the time of this writing, it's 25 below in northern Minnesota, hardly the weather for flycatchers! I'm going to have to think about this. Maybe there's something in the last issue of *The Loon* to inspire something more timely. . . .

Here you go: Carrol Henderson's interesting article about Trumpeter Swans, "The Case of the Rotten Swan" (*The Loon* 80:121–128). Now, there's a bird you can see presently in spite of below-zero temperatures, but be aware that the article presents a field mark that won't "hold up in court," to use Carrol's phrase. The text states, "The edge of the mandible (the tomi-um) is red on a Trumpeter Swan and black on a Tundra Swan," and three photo-

captions also reiterate this as a difference between the swans. Actually, however, many Tundras also show a reddish tomi-um, and this may lead to them being mistaken for Trumpeters.

While some of the field marks presented in the article to separate Trumpeters from Tundras are rightly described as only suggestive and not diagnostic, this one is not qualified as it should be. For some examples of Tundras with reddish-edged mandibles, go to Google Image Search (<http://images.google.com>), type in Tundra Swan, and you'll find several photos showing such color on Tundra Swan mandibles.

Well, that didn't take long. Not nearly enough for a "Hindsight" article, so I

might as well talk about flycatchers. And if I start with wood-pewees, this installment will actually have some sense of timing, since soon I won't have *Birding* magazine to kick around any more. After some 40 uninterrupted years of receiving this magazine, I finally decided to drop my subscription, and this will be my last opportunity to whine about it. (For sale: a complete set of 240 issues of *Birding*, 1969–2008.)

I've complained about this journal before in this column (*The Loon* 79:230–234) — far too few ID articles in recent years, photos and captions and text often inconsistent with each other, and those artificial Photo Quiz exercises. Further, its now-infrequent ID articles have a tendency to be too narrow in focus, unhelpful, or sometimes even discredited, and the September–October 2008 issue included yet another such article: “Field Identification of Western & Eastern Wood-Pewees.”

Wood-Pewees

You'd think that an article devoted to wood-pewee identification would be welcome, given the well-known difficulty in separating the two species, and there are documented Minnesota records of Western Wood-Pewee. But once I saw who the authors were, I was prepared to be disappointed — two of them had also produced those dubious dowitcher articles discussed in previous “Hindsight” installments. (Normally, I'd cite *The Loon* references here, but we're all really better off not being reminded of the dowitcher mess.)

To its credit, the article does begin with an emphasis on vocalizations: “Voice is the most reliable criterion for identifying wood-pewees.” But it really should have said it's the only reliable criterion, and left it at that. It also would have been better if something were said about the contact calls of juvenile Eastern Wood-Pewees, which can sound hoarse, burry, and reminiscent of the Western's song, though not as loud and not down-slurred (see *The Loon* 73:121).

Again, the problem of wood-pewee

ID has long been studied and debated, and vocalizations have remained the only diagnostic and consistent difference between the two species. It's also been known and written that there is a tendency for Westerns to have darker underparts and darker lower mandibles, but, as the article correctly reiterates, there is lots of overlap in these two features, and they cannot be relied on.

So far, so good. But (as they did with the dowitchers) the authors press on to propose other “new” field marks, and it's hard to tell if these are consistent, merely suggestive, or mostly useless. They claim that an Eastern Wood-Pewee has two wing bars of equal brightness, while the upper wing bar on a Western is fainter than the lower. This difference isn't even qualified and almost sounds diagnostic when they say it is “more reliable” and “does indeed hold [up]”. However, this is a pretty subtle feature, not really apparent in the composite photo of the two pewees on the magazine's cover, and subject to variations in feather wear (wing bars are among the first things to go on a bird in worn plumage).

At least the article qualifies its other two claims, but I don't consider their caveats strong enough. A difference is discussed in their ratios of primary extension beyond the tertials vs. tail extension beyond the primaries, but none of this is supported by the cover photo, the color illustration on the article's first page, or that dark, dingy photo of specimens. Equally dubious is that there is any consistent difference in posture (“Western's tail held higher in line with the back; Eastern's tail held lower”) — if this is valid, why doesn't the cover photo show any difference?

I'd be less critical of this article if it had stressed the similarity of wood-pewees to Alder and Willow flycatchers (like a pewee, these Empids show little or no eye ring); to Olive-sided Flycatcher (wood-pewees often show a similar “vested” appearance, and the Olive-sided's diagnostic white patches are usually concealed below other feathers); and to Eastern Phoebe (despite what the field guides say, it needs to

be repeated that phoebes often show obvious wing bars and are then mistaken for wood-pewees).

One final word. In case you still want to try to separate silent wood-pewees in the field, consider this sobering account from the *Frontiers of Field Identification* listservice showing that even specimens can defy identification:

Two collected Maryland Wood-Pewee specimens in the Smithsonian [were] considered by some to be Westerns. Morphometrically, we have not been able to separate them from Easterns. At our request, the Smithsonian conducted a DNA analysis. For one specimen the analysis did not work, and for the other the results were “puzzling” and could possibly involve a “cryptic species from elsewhere in the range (e.g., the Rocky Mountains)”.

Empidonax Flycatchers

Well, let's move on to something easier! While it is certainly a stretch to call this group easy, and vocalizations will still provide the most reliable ID criteria, at least there are some useful clues you can usually depend on when confronted with a silent Empid in Minnesota:

- Range and season. Consider where you are and the time of year. During summer and migration, Acadian Flycatchers are to be expected only in the southeastern quarter of the state, and Willows would be rare in northeastern Minnesota. The other three species can occur statewide as migrants. In summer, though, only the Least nests throughout, the Yellow-bellied is limited to the northern counties, while an Alder would be rare south of the Twin Cities and in the southwestern quarter of the state. (Keep in mind, though, that Alders and Yellow-bellieds are often still migrating through southern Minnesota into June.)

- Habitat. In summer, note the habitat. Look for Least and Acadians in deciduous woods. Yellow-bellieds are partial to forests with a predominantly coniferous component, while Alders and Willows — true to their names — respectively prefer alder swamps and willow thickets.

- Eye rings. Because of feather wear, eye rings are less prominent on summer/fall adults and on juveniles, but they can be helpful in the ID process. Those on Least and Yellow-bellieds are usually the most prominent, and frequently appear “almond” or “tear-drop” shaped; Acadian eye rings tend to be narrower; those on the Alder average even narrower and typically disappear by mid-summer; while a Willow “never” shows an appreciable eye ring.

- Bill size and color. All five Minnesota Empids have relatively broad bills, but you'll often be able to discern that the Least's bill looks shorter than the others. While the lower mandibles on all five are typically entirely pale, the Least would be the only eastern Empid that sometimes shows a dark tip.

- Primary extension. Look at how far the folded primaries extend beyond the tertials. With experience or comparison, the primary extension on Least will appear noticeably shorter than on Acadians, Alders, and Willows. (Admittedly, I have no impression of the Yellow-bellied's extension, since I never have much reason to look at it — see below.)

- Plumage. With one exception, to my eye all the eastern Empids look pretty much the same in overall plumage color. But I am usually comfortable telling a silent Yellow-bellied by plumage alone, especially adults in May–June and juveniles: they look especially green above, their wing bars strongly contrast with dark wings, and a grayish “vested” wash underlies the uniform and extensive yellowish tone which continues from throat to under tail coverts (unlike other Empids, which at most show some pale yellow limited to the flanks and under tail coverts).

The above considerations aside, you're always better off if the Empid is singing or even just giving some call notes. There is no need here to describe all their vocalizations, since CDs and internet recordings are easy to find and better than verbal descriptions, but these few comments and transliterations may be helpful:

- Despite what many field guides try

to describe, I've never heard an Acadian Flycatcher sing "pizza" or an Alder sing "fee bee o." In reality, Acadians say "peet SEET", accent on the second syllable (not the first, as in the word "pizza"); the Alder's song is burry and two-syllabled, not three: "free beur."

- Non-singing Empids can often be separated by call notes alone. A flat "whit" narrows it down to a Least or Willow, and Willows also give a distinctive, dry, rising "sprrit". A soft, musical "peep" and a descending, buzzy, siskin-like "shreeur" are both diagnostic of Alder. A loud and sharp "tseet!" indicates an Acadian, while the Yellow-bellied has two unique call notes: a rising, mellow, two-syllabled whistle ("che wee"), and an abrupt, metallic "killink!"

- In addition to their basic and diagnostic call notes, all the Empids can utter other random, multi-syllabled chattering, although I'm unaware if any of that will help you make an ID. And, as pointed out in previous columns, I've twice heard Willows give call notes disturbingly reminiscent of the Alder's "shreeur."

Keep in mind there are six other members of the *Empidonax* genus in the western U.S.: Hammond's, Gray, Dusky, Pacific-slope, Cordilleran, and Buff-breasted. Although none of these has actually been recorded in Minnesota, any of them could occur here — and perhaps some already have, but were understandably overlooked and undetected. Indeed, I believe all of them except the Buff-breasted have strayed to the eastern U.S.

Their identifications are beyond the scope of this article, but take a second look if you ever see an Empid dipping its tail in the manner of a phoebe, and you just may be looking at a Gray Flycatcher. (But be aware all the Empids can nervously flick their tails and wings, which is different from the Gray's deliberate tail-dipping.) Or, a "Yellow-bellied" flycatcher that's out of season or doesn't quite look or sound right might actually prove to be a Pacific-slope or Cordilleran. And an Empid with a narrow, darker lower mandible is especially worth closer study in case it's a

Hammond's, Gray, or Dusky.

A careful, conservative approach to *Empidonax* identification will always be your best course, and perhaps there's no better cautionary tale than this winter's sighting in Texas of a possible Pine Flycatcher (*Empidonax affinis*), a species never recorded in the U.S. It's now been around for a couple of months, studied and photographed by dozens of birders (some of them with considerable experience and expertise), and its call notes have been repeatedly recorded and analyzed. The verdict(s) so far, after all this evidence: some still maintain it's a Pine, others confidently claim it's just a Least, and no doubt others with equal conviction have called it something else.

For more complete information on *Empidonax* identification, I especially recommend the chapter on this genus in Kaufman's *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding*. There was also an exhaustive five-part series on *Empidonax* ID in *Birding* back in the 1980s (*Birding* 17:151–158, 17:277–287, 18:153–159, 18:315–327, and 19(5):7–15). (I admit it's unlikely that most of you still have 20-year-old copies of this journal lying around, but, remember, mine are for sale!)

Phoebes

Have I mentioned yet that Eastern Phoebes frequently show pewee-like wing bars? Yes, I suppose I have, more than once, but I'm still willing to wager that at least one phoebe will mistakenly be reported as an Eastern Wood-Pewee this April. About the only other confusion I've witnessed involving Eastern Phoebe, especially in Texas, is mistaking a distant, dark-looking Eastern in poor light for a Black Phoebe. But this shouldn't be a problem in Minnesota, since Black Phoebes have demonstrated virtually no vagrancy tendencies to northern or eastern states. (And this is the primary reason why a Minnesota sight record from the 1950s was reluctantly dropped from the state list after decades of debate.)

I haven't seen this happen, but I suppose another source of phoebe confusion

could be an Eastern in strong, low-angle sunlight conditions, which might make its underparts appear more rusty than they really are, possibly resulting in an erroneous Say's Phoebe sighting. And, while we're at it, be sure to consult your field guide to understand why birders sometimes confuse female Vermilion Flycatchers with Say's Phoebes. (But what a nice potential "problem" for anyone birding in Minnesota: finding a flycatcher with reddish underparts that's either a Vermilion Flycatcher or Say's Phoebe!)

Myiarchus Flycatchers

Like wood-pewees and Empids, much has been written and discussed about the ID problems associated with the flycatchers in this genus. But the situation isn't too complicated here since the only reasonable alternative to Great Crested Flycatcher, Minnesota's default *Myiarchus*, would be Ash-throated. There are two state records of this flycatcher, both in late fall (consistent with the pattern in other eastern states), so any Great Crested-like flycatcher you see in late October or November naturally deserves special scrutiny. Keep in mind, though, that there are still valid Great Crested records here in late fall, so don't jump too quickly then to the conclusion that you've found a third state record.

Given a decent view, it's not too difficult to separate these two flycatchers, since both the *Sibley* and *Geographic* field guides adequately depict their differences in bill color, underparts coloration, and tail feather pattern. But for more complete ID information, one good source would be the account in this journal of Minnesota's first record in 1990 — *The Loon* 63:4–11.

Kingbirds

Eastern Kingbird ID? Hardly a problem here — unless you want to consider the potential for a Gray Kingbird to wander up this way. And, yes, I would consider it, since that species does turn up well north of Florida on occasion. Again, consult your *Sibley* or *Geographic* to see the

similarities between these two...

...and, while you're at it, also look up the differences in the four yellow kingbirds. So far, all those in Minnesota are Westerns by default, but there is clear potential for the other three species as vagrants. After all, the Cassin's Kingbird is casual in nearby southwestern South Dakota (it has even bred there), and there are several Tropical Kingbird records in northern and eastern states. Couch's Kingbird seems to have less tendency to vagrancy, but there are extralimital records. So, if you're ever lucky enough to turn up an apparent Tropical Kingbird, remember that vocalizations are the only safe way to distinguish one from a Couch's.

Finally, about the only other ID issue I can think of involves two species with some similarities to kingbirds, at least in their posture, behavior, and habitat. Plus, they have long tails that can apparently serve as utensils! The spectacular Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, which appears almost annually in Minnesota, should be a straightforward identification, but it's worth taking a second look. Consider the real possibility of Fork-tailed Flycatcher (there are two state records), and be sure to include a sentence or two in your documentation to preclude that species.

While thumbing through the last issue of *The Loon* looking for alternatives to writing about flycatchers in winter, I did find an intriguing reference to an unfamiliar species. (Actually, this was pointed out to me by a sharp-eyed reader, which I appreciated, although there was hint of gleeful sarcasm as she related her discovery.) It's on page 167 in the article about loons and grebes, and about all that's known about the species is that it reportedly has "a similar bill shape" to Red-throated Loon. Maybe I'll write about it next time, but I'll have to do more research first. It was called a Yellow-throated Loon, and I can only assume its scientific name is *Gavia goofii*.

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Notes of Interest



BALTIMORE ORIOLE LONGEVITY RECORD — As more birds are banded, it is inevitable that the expanding sample of traceable individuals will include more of those rare individuals with exceptionally long lifespans. Thus, longevity records should slowly increase as years pass. Expanding the number of recovered bands, either from live or dead birds, should also result in additional longevity records. A relatively new, and still expanding, source of recovered bands comes from the careful monitoring of the nest sites of the Midwest Peregrine Falcon population.



In April 2008, the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) notified me that a band I had put on a Baltimore Oriole at Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley, Anoka County, had been found in St. Paul, Minnesota. I had banded the oriole in July 1996 during one of our regular volunteer-run banding programs. The oriole had hatched in 1995 or earlier. The BBL had little additional information about the band recovery, but provided the name and address of the individual who reported the band.

I contacted that individual, a student at the University of Minnesota, and learned the band was found while he was identifying prey remains that had been removed from a Peregrine Falcon nest in downtown St. Paul on 26 October 2007. Upon checking with Jackie Fallon, current coordinator of the Midwest Peregrine Falcon Monitoring Program, I learned that 26 October 2007 was the day she had cleaned out the Peregrine nest on the North Central Life Building in St. Paul. Because of the unusually large quantity of prey remains in that nest, she had collected them and sent them to Dr. Robert Zink for identification. She hadn't noticed the band in the prey remains, but during examination by Paul Boettger, one of Dr. Zink's students, the band was found on a partially feathered leg. The student sent the band to BBL. That nest box had been previously cleaned of prey remains on 4 June 2007 when Jackie Fallon had banded the Peregrine chicks, so the oriole had been killed and deposited in the nest box between 4 June and 26 October. Because 4 June was shortly before the chicks' fledging time, the oriole most likely was brought to the nest box within a few weeks following June 4.

After I provided these additional details, BBL decided to consider the oriole's death to be June 2007. Coupled with the fact that the oriole's hatching was known to have been in 1995 or earlier, BBL considers this bird to have been a minimum of 12 years old at its death (Kathleen Klimkiewicz, pers. comm.). The previous longevity record for a Baltimore oriole was 11 years and 7 months. — **Ron Refsnider, Springbrook Nature Center, 100 – 85th Avenue N.W., Fridley, MN 55432.**

Corrections to *The Loon*

Compiled by Peder H. Svingen and Anthony X. Hertzell

Volume 79

Page 28. Add **BURROWING OWL** 6/18 Pipestone (near Pipestone) ph. Angela Kallsen (*The Loon* 80:9).

Page 149. Delete **Tree Swallow** 3/7 Wright.
Page 203. Add location (Eagle Rd, between 130th and 150th Ave) to **Least Bittern** 5/21 Kanabec.
Page 210. Change **Great Black-backed Gull** to 3/24–25 Washington (Pt. Douglas) TPB, SJR, †DWK, and add dagger in front of CMB.
Page 210. Add **Parasitic Jaeger** 5/22 St. Louis (adult light morph at Park Point, Duluth) KRE *et al.*
Page 222. Add number of birds (2) to **Yellow-breasted Chat** 5/30–31 Lac Qui Parle.
Page 225. Designate **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** a first county record in **Wilkin**.

Volume 80

Page 11. Credit the photo of the **Black-throated Sparrow** to Andrew Birch.
Page 23. Change **Killdeer** high count to 914 in Lac Qui Parle.
Page 28. Credit the photo of the **Black-backed Woodpecker** to Jeanie Joppru.
Page 38. Delete **Yellow-headed Blackbird** high count.
Page 71. For **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, change first date seen to 9/16 for adult in Hennepin and change last date seen to 11/19 for first-cycle bird in Duluth.
Page 73. For **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, add south records in Renville (Danube) and Stearns (Paynesville).
Page 83. Add high count for **Magnolia Warbler** 8/27 Dakota (**75+** at Spring Lake Park) JPM.
Page 88. Change high count to **46** for **Fox Sparrow** 10/14 Scott.
Page 149. Delete **Evening Grosbeak** in Olmsted.

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Compiled by Anthony X. Hertzell

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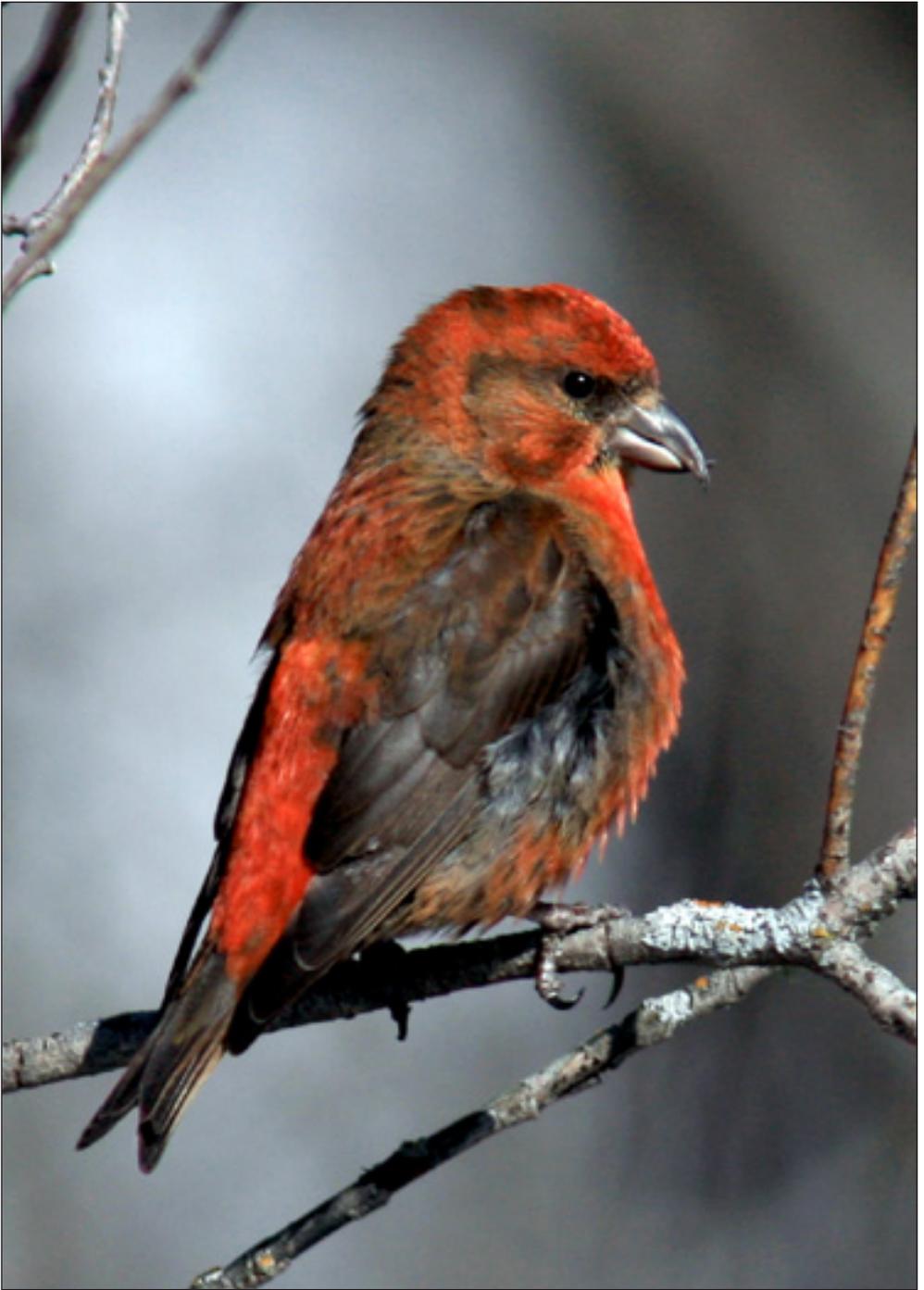
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Young Great Horned Owl, 13 April 2008, St. Anthony, Hennepin County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 30 April 2008, Egan, Dakota County. Photo by David A. Cahlander.



Red Crossbill, 10 March 2008, Longville, Cass County. Photo by Ben Wieland.

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Purpose of the M.O.U.

The purpose of the MOU is the promotion of a broad program of conservation and natural history study, primarily in the field of ornithology.

To achieve this objective, the Union urges and promotes interest in field studies and observation of birds by individual members and affiliated bird clubs. We publish a quarterly journal, *The Loon*, and a newsletter, *Minnesota Birding*; we conduct



field trips; we encourage and sponsor the preservation of natural areas; and we hold seminars where research reports, unusual observations, and conservation discussions are presented.

We are supported by dues from members, affiliated clubs, and special gifts. Any or all aspects of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials, or bequests willed to the organization.

Suggestions to Authors

The Loon is a peer-reviewed journal on the birds of Minnesota published quarterly by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. The Editor welcomes submissions of articles, Notes of Interest, color slides, and photographs. All submissions should be typed, double-spaced, and single-sided. Notes of Interest should be less than two full pages. Photographs should be no smaller than 5"x7". Whenever possible, please include a digital copy of your submission in any standard format on floppy disk, CD, DVD, or via e-mail. Digital documents may be e-mailed to the Editor of *The Loon* — see inside front cover for contact information. Club information and other announcements of general interest should be sent to the Editor of our newsletter *Minnesota Birding* — see inside front cover for contact information. Bird sighting reports for each season should be sent to the Editor of "The Seasonal Report" — see "Key to The Seasonal Report" for contact information.



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